US009335198B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Pellegrino et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 9,335,198 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: May 10, 2016**

(54) **METHOD OF USING A PAINT CUP ASSEMBLY**

(75) Inventors: **Biagio P. Pellegrino**, Niskayuna, NY (US); **Clemens E. Zoellner**, Bay City, MI (US); **Thomas R. Nixon**, Au Gres, MI (US); **Christopher J. Chilton**, Jefferson, MA (US)

(73) Assignees: **Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc.**, Worcester, MA (US); **Saint-Gobain Abrasifs**, Conflans-Sainte-Honorine (FR)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 550 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/464,933**

(22) Filed: **May 4, 2012**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2012/0279609 A1 Nov. 8, 2012

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/483,524, filed on May 6, 2011.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

B05B 7/24	(2006.01)
G01F 23/02	(2006.01)
B05B 15/00	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***G01F 23/02*** (2013.01); ***B05B 7/2408*** (2013.01); ***B05B 7/2478*** (2013.01); ***B05B 7/2481*** (2013.01); *B05B 15/008* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC B05B 7/2408; B05B 7/2478; B05B 7/2481

USPC 141/1, 113, 319–322, 363–366; 239/1, 239/379

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

533,489	A	2/1895	Ogram
758,239	A	4/1904	Ducart
1,370,687	A	3/1921	Ferris
1,556,913	A	10/1924	Capra
1,703,384	A	2/1929	Birkenmaier

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

AU	200032550	B3	7/2000
AU	199935838	A1	1/2001

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Amended Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Illinois Tool Works, Inc. and ITW Finishing, L.L.C.*, Case No. 06-2459 (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota) filed Aug. 7, 2006 (5 pgs).

(Continued)

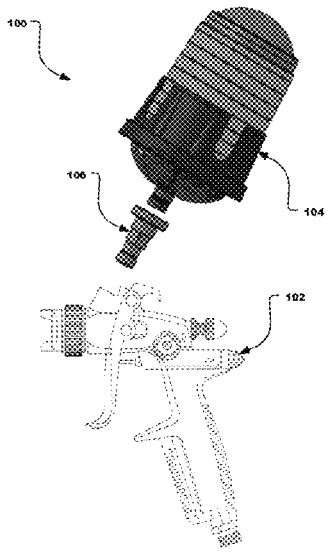
Primary Examiner — Nicolas A Arnett

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Joseph P. Sullivan; Abel Law Group, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of using a paint cup assembly with a paint sprayer includes filling a paint cup assembly with paint, closing the paint cup assembly, inverting the paint cup assembly, and engaging the paint cup assembly with the paint sprayer. The paint cup assembly includes a spring loaded valve to prevent paint from leaking from the paint cup assembly when the paint cup assembly is inverted.

22 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets



(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

1,722,101	A		7/1929	Little
1,748,440	A		2/1930	Burdick
1,843,269	A		2/1932	Capser
1,843,899	A		2/1932	Martinet
2,004,574	A		6/1935	Gee, Jr.
2,005,026	A		6/1935	Ellsworth
2,051,518	A		8/1936	Cunningham
D105,960	S		9/1937	Lieberman
2,177,032	A		10/1939	Baumgardner
2,200,675	A		5/1940	Northcutt
2,228,861	A		1/1941	Wegener
2,310,633	A		2/1943	Heimburger
2,318,717	A		5/1943	Rose
2,593,639	A		4/1952	Whitehouse
2,593,839	A		4/1952	Buc
2,595,317	A		5/1952	White
2,606,586	A		8/1952	Hill
2,612,404	A		9/1952	Andersson
2,641,365	A		6/1953	Lundeen
2,656,217	A		10/1953	Roche
2,670,239	A		2/1954	Ditch
2,670,882	A		3/1954	Best
2,770,706	A		11/1956	Vogtle et al.
2,795,461	A		6/1957	Durkin
2,851,187	A		9/1958	Hall
2,877,934	A		3/1959	Wallace
2,901,182	A		8/1959	Cragg et al.
2,959,358	A		11/1960	Vork
3,000,576	A		9/1961	Levey et al.
3,035,623	A		5/1962	Goetz
3,066,872	A		12/1962	Kobee
3,134,494	A		5/1964	Quinn
3,136,486	A		6/1964	Docken
3,157,360	A		11/1964	Heard
3,163,544	A		12/1964	Valyi
3,167,210	A		1/1965	Carney, Jr.
3,186,643	A		6/1965	George et al.
3,195,819	A		7/1965	Watanabe
3,198,438	A		8/1965	Hultgren
3,211,324	A		10/1965	Sapien
3,227,305	A		1/1966	Enssle
3,236,459	A		2/1966	McRitchie
3,240,398	A		3/1966	Dalton, Jr.
3,255,972	A		6/1966	Hultgren et al.
3,260,464	A		7/1966	Harant
3,335,913	A		8/1967	Bouet
3,338,406	A		8/1967	Anderson
3,362,640	A		1/1968	Fainman
3,381,845	A		5/1968	MacDonald
3,393,842	A		7/1968	Bruce et al.
3,401,842	A		9/1968	Morrison
3,406,853	A		10/1968	McLeod
3,432,104	A		3/1969	Kaltenbach
3,487,989	A		1/1970	Rausing et al.
3,507,309	A		4/1970	Johnson
3,524,589	A		8/1970	Pelton, Jr.
3,593,921	A		7/1971	Boltic
3,606,092	A		9/1971	Kollmai
3,658,122	A		4/1972	Kalyk
3,672,645	A		6/1972	Terrels et al.
3,674,074	A		7/1972	Lavis
3,757,718	A		9/1973	Johnson
3,773,211	A		11/1973	Bridgman
3,776,408	A		12/1973	Wald
3,779,419	A		12/1973	Heitz
3,780,950	A		12/1973	Brennan
3,784,039	A		1/1974	Marco
3,790,017	A		2/1974	Fitzpatrick et al.
3,790,021	A		2/1974	Bailey
3,815,967	A		6/1974	Jocelyn
3,841,555	A		10/1974	Lilja
3,853,157	A		12/1974	Madaio
3,858,810	A		1/1975	Seeley et al.
3,892,360	A		7/1975	Schlottmann et al.
3,934,746	A		1/1976	Lilja
3,937,367	A		2/1976	Hood
3,939,842	A		2/1976	Harris
3,940,052	A		2/1976	McHugh
4,035,004	A		7/1977	Hengesbach
4,043,510	A		8/1977	Morris
4,067,499	A		1/1978	Cohen
4,069,751	A		1/1978	Gronwick et al.
4,088,268	A		5/1978	Vohringer
4,095,720	A		6/1978	Delbrouck et al.
4,122,973	A		10/1978	Ahern
4,140,279	A		2/1979	Hawkins
4,151,929	A		5/1979	Sapien
4,159,081	A		6/1979	Demler et al.
4,186,783	A		2/1980	Brandt
4,193,506	A		3/1980	Trindle et al.
D257,668	S		12/1980	Ahern
4,258,862	A		3/1981	Thorsheim
4,307,820	A		12/1981	Binoche
4,321,922	A		3/1982	Deaton
4,339,046	A		7/1982	Coen
4,347,948	A		9/1982	Hamada et al.
4,379,455	A		4/1983	Deaton
4,383,635	A		5/1983	Yotoriyama
4,388,044	A		6/1983	Wilkinson
4,401,274	A		8/1983	Coffee
4,403,738	A		9/1983	Kern
4,405,088	A		9/1983	Gray
4,406,406	A		9/1983	Knapp
4,411,387	A		10/1983	Stern et al.
4,418,843	A		12/1983	Jackman
4,430,084	A		2/1984	Deaton
4,442,003	A		4/1984	Holt
4,455,140	A		6/1984	Joslin
4,457,455	A		7/1984	Meshberg
4,491,254	A		1/1985	Viets et al.
4,501,500	A	*	2/1985	Terrels 366/250
4,516,693	A		5/1985	Gaston
4,558,792	A		12/1985	Cabernoch et al.
4,559,140	A		12/1985	Croteau
4,562,965	A		1/1986	Ihmels et al.
D283,832	S		5/1986	Weinstein et al.
4,586,628	A		5/1986	Nittel
4,621,770	A		11/1986	Sayen
4,623,095	A		11/1986	Pronk
4,625,890	A		12/1986	Galer
4,628,644	A		12/1986	Somers
4,633,052	A		12/1986	Beavers et al.
4,645,097	A		2/1987	Kaufman
4,653,691	A		3/1987	Grime
4,657,151	A		4/1987	Cabernoch
D290,990	S		7/1987	Izzi
4,693,423	A		9/1987	Roe et al.
4,712,739	A		12/1987	Bihn
4,760,962	A		8/1988	Wheeler
4,781,311	A		11/1988	Dunning et al.
4,811,904	A		3/1989	Ihmels et al.
4,813,556	A		3/1989	Lawrence
4,813,609	A		3/1989	French
D300,555	S		4/1989	Patterson
4,818,589	A		4/1989	Johnson et al.
4,824,018	A		4/1989	Shreve
4,836,764	A		6/1989	Parkinson
4,909,409	A		3/1990	Shreve
4,925,055	A		5/1990	Robbins, III et al.
4,930,644	A		6/1990	Robbins, III
4,936,511	A		6/1990	Johnson et al.
D309,858	S		8/1990	Meyersburg
4,946,558	A		8/1990	Salmon
4,951,875	A		8/1990	Devey
4,961,537	A		10/1990	Stern
4,962,885	A		10/1990	Coffee
4,971,251	A		11/1990	Dobrick et al.
4,979,628	A		12/1990	Robbins, III
4,982,868	A		1/1991	Robbins, III
4,998,696	A		3/1991	Desjardins
4,999,109	A		3/1991	Sabre
5,005,726	A		4/1991	Robbins
5,031,676	A	*	7/1991	Ulm 141/346
5,035,339	A		7/1991	Meyersburg

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,052,623 A 10/1991 Nordeen
5,054,687 A 10/1991 Burns et al.
5,059,319 A 10/1991 Welsh
5,060,816 A 10/1991 Robbins, III
5,069,389 A 12/1991 Bitsakos
5,071,070 A 12/1991 Hardy
5,078,322 A 1/1992 Torntore
5,078,323 A 1/1992 Frank
5,094,543 A 3/1992 Mursa
5,102,052 A 4/1992 Demarest et al.
5,102,384 A 4/1992 Ross et al.
5,118,003 A 6/1992 Pepper et al.
5,119,992 A 6/1992 Grime
5,123,571 A 6/1992 Rebeyrolle et al.
5,143,242 A 9/1992 Millasich
5,143,294 A 9/1992 Lintvedt
5,186,828 A 2/1993 Mankin
5,209,365 A 5/1993 Wood
5,209,501 A 5/1993 Smith
5,236,128 A 8/1993 Morita et al.
5,236,506 A 8/1993 Mazakas
5,238,150 A 8/1993 Williams
5,248,089 A 9/1993 Bekius
5,248,096 A 9/1993 Hoey et al.
5,253,900 A 10/1993 Snyder
D341,189 S 11/1993 Legassie et al.
5,259,400 A 11/1993 Bruno et al.
5,261,751 A 11/1993 Heinz
5,267,693 A 12/1993 Dickey
5,269,840 A 12/1993 Morris et al.
5,295,606 A 3/1994 Karwoski
5,308,647 A 5/1994 Lappi
5,326,001 A 7/1994 Holmquist et al.
5,328,095 A 7/1994 Wickenhaver
5,332,158 A 7/1994 Styne et al.
5,337,921 A 8/1994 Wilson et al.
5,341,836 A 8/1994 Doherty
5,358,402 A 10/1994 Reed et al.
5,368,395 A 11/1994 Crimmins
5,377,852 A 1/1995 Demorest
5,381,918 A 1/1995 Dahl
5,385,251 A 1/1995 Dunn
5,400,573 A 3/1995 Crystal et al.
5,405,090 A 4/1995 Greene et al.
5,415,352 A 5/1995 May
5,421,489 A 6/1995 Holzner, Sr. et al.
5,424,086 A 6/1995 Walker
5,431,205 A * 7/1995 Gebhard 141/351
5,454,488 A 10/1995 Geier
5,460,289 A 10/1995 Gemmell
5,462,711 A 10/1995 Ricottone
5,468,383 A 11/1995 McKenzie
5,492,242 A 2/1996 Gall
5,501,397 A 3/1996 Holt
5,569,377 A 10/1996 Hashimoto
5,582,350 A 12/1996 Kosmyna et al.
5,607,082 A 3/1997 Cracauer
5,617,972 A 4/1997 Morano et al.
5,631,055 A 5/1997 Vines et al.
5,655,714 A 8/1997 Kieffer et al.
5,667,858 A 9/1997 Pokorny
D386,654 S 11/1997 Kosmyna
5,695,837 A 12/1997 Everaerts et al.
5,713,519 A 2/1998 Sandison et al.
5,789,684 A 8/1998 Masek et al.
5,797,520 A 8/1998 Donahue
5,803,302 A 9/1998 Sato et al.
5,803,360 A 9/1998 Spitznagel
5,803,367 A 9/1998 Heard et al.
5,806,711 A 9/1998 Morano et al.
5,816,431 A 10/1998 Giannopoulos
5,816,501 A 10/1998 LoPresti et al.
5,826,795 A 10/1998 Holland et al.
5,829,588 A 11/1998 Bloomfield
5,853,102 A 12/1998 Jarrett
5,863,431 A 1/1999 Salzburg
5,878,899 A 3/1999 Manganiello et al.
5,921,426 A 7/1999 Randolph
5,938,016 A 8/1999 Erdtmann
5,954,273 A 9/1999 Ruta et al.
5,964,365 A 10/1999 Peeples et al.
5,967,379 A 10/1999 Crossdale et al.
5,996,427 A 12/1999 Masek et al.
6,019,294 A 2/2000 Anderson et al.
6,027,041 A 2/2000 Evans
6,053,429 A 4/2000 Chang
6,092,740 A 7/2000 Liu
D431,279 S 9/2000 Spriegel
6,196,410 B1 3/2001 Hocking
6,257,429 B1 7/2001 Kong
6,264,115 B1 7/2001 Liska et al.
6,277,478 B1 8/2001 Kurita et al.
6,287,669 B1 9/2001 George et al.
D449,381 S 10/2001 de Begon de Larouziere
6,302,445 B1 10/2001 Kugele et al.
6,371,385 B1 4/2002 Schiller et al.
6,390,386 B2 5/2002 Krohn et al.
6,394,152 B1 * 5/2002 Martin 141/351
D460,825 S 7/2002 Renz
6,435,426 B1 8/2002 Copp, Jr.
D462,268 S 9/2002 Schroeder et al.
6,455,140 B1 9/2002 Whitney et al.
6,475,609 B1 11/2002 Whitney et al.
6,536,684 B1 3/2003 Wei
6,536,687 B1 3/2003 Navis et al.
6,588,681 B2 7/2003 Rothrum et al.
6,595,441 B2 7/2003 Petrie et al.
6,663,018 B2 12/2003 Rothrum et al.
6,698,670 B1 3/2004 Gosis et al.
6,712,292 B1 3/2004 Gosis et al.
6,717,673 B1 4/2004 Janssen et al.
6,749,132 B2 6/2004 Pettit et al.
6,752,179 B1 6/2004 Schwartz
6,796,514 B1 9/2004 Schwartz
6,820,824 B1 11/2004 Joseph et al.
6,871,594 B1 3/2005 Estrella
6,877,677 B2 4/2005 Schmon et al.
6,899,239 B1 5/2005 Gray
6,938,836 B2 9/2005 Bouic
6,942,126 B2 9/2005 Douglas et al.
6,945,429 B2 9/2005 Gosis et al.
6,946,122 B2 9/2005 Yang
6,953,155 B2 10/2005 Joseph et al.
6,958,033 B1 10/2005 Malin
6,982,108 B2 1/2006 Janssen et al.
7,014,127 B2 3/2006 Valpey, III et al.
7,083,119 B2 8/2006 Bouic et al.
7,086,549 B2 8/2006 Kosmyna et al.
7,128,102 B2 10/2006 Pendleton et al.
7,143,960 B2 12/2006 Joseph et al.
7,159,734 B1 1/2007 O'Brien
7,165,732 B2 1/2007 Kosmyna et al.
7,172,139 B2 2/2007 Bouic et al.
7,188,785 B2 3/2007 Joseph et al.
7,269,969 B2 9/2007 Strickland et al.
7,296,759 B2 11/2007 Alexander et al.
7,299,956 B2 * 11/2007 Haglund et al. 141/364
7,344,040 B2 3/2008 Kosmyna et al.
7,353,964 B2 4/2008 Kosmyna
7,354,074 B2 4/2008 Kosmyna et al.
7,374,111 B2 5/2008 Joseph et al.
7,380,680 B2 6/2008 Kosmyna et al.
7,451,884 B2 11/2008 Kuehn et al.
D582,512 S 12/2008 Fontaine
D586,059 S 2/2009 Bechtold, Jr.
7,568,638 B2 8/2009 Gehrung
7,591,291 B2 * 9/2009 Mackey et al. 141/113
7,625,016 B2 12/2009 Kosmyna et al.
D615,161 S 5/2010 Gerson et al.
7,757,972 B2 7/2010 Kosmyna et al.
7,798,421 B2 9/2010 Joseph et al.
7,798,425 B2 9/2010 Joseph et al.
7,798,426 B2 9/2010 Joseph et al.
7,798,427 B2 9/2010 Joseph et al.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

7,802,763	B2	9/2010	Faller et al.	
7,810,744	B2	10/2010	Schmon et al.	
7,819,263	B1	10/2010	DiCarlo-Nelson	
7,819,341	B2	10/2010	Schmon et al.	
7,823,806	B2	11/2010	Schmon	
7,878,425	B2	2/2011	Handzel et al.	
7,921,583	B2	4/2011	Londino	
8,002,200	B2	8/2011	Joseph et al.	
8,033,413	B2	10/2011	Gerson et al.	
8,052,071	B2	11/2011	Kruse	
8,118,070	B2 *	2/2012	Smith	141/349
8,127,963	B2	3/2012	Gerson et al.	
8,201,709	B1	6/2012	Namigata et al.	
8,230,997	B1	7/2012	McWilliams et al.	
8,272,255	B2	9/2012	Halverson et al.	
8,444,067	B2	5/2013	Schmon et al.	
2002/0014541	A1	2/2002	Krohn et al.	
2002/0121139	A1	9/2002	Purpura et al.	
2003/0003301	A1	1/2003	Whitney et al.	
2003/0008144	A1	1/2003	Whitney et al.	
2003/0025002	A1	2/2003	Hughes	
2003/0209573	A1	11/2003	Bouic	
2004/0016825	A1	1/2004	Petrie et al.	
2004/0067350	A1	4/2004	Janssen et al.	
2004/0084553	A1	5/2004	Joseph et al.	
2004/0118941	A1	6/2004	Joseph et al.	
2004/0140373	A1	7/2004	Joseph et al.	
2004/0164182	A1	8/2004	Joseph et al.	
2004/0217201	A1	11/2004	Ruda	
2004/0232714	A1	11/2004	Coppotelli et al.	
2004/0256484	A1	12/2004	Joseph et al.	
2004/0256485	A1	12/2004	Joseph et al.	
2005/0029285	A1	2/2005	Gay, III et al.	
2005/0045146	A1	3/2005	McKay et al.	
2005/0067502	A1	3/2005	Bouic et al.	
2005/0092770	A1	5/2005	Yechouron	
2005/0145718	A1	7/2005	Blette et al.	
2005/0145723	A1	7/2005	Blette et al.	
2005/0145724	A1	7/2005	Blette et al.	
2005/0156058	A1	7/2005	Kosmyna et al.	
2005/0241722	A1	11/2005	Pendleton et al.	
2005/0242107	A1	11/2005	Kosmyna et al.	
2005/0258271	A1	11/2005	Kosmyna et al.	
2005/0263614	A1	12/2005	Kosmyna et al.	
2005/0279748	A1	12/2005	Kosmyna	
2006/0000927	A1	1/2006	Ruda	
2006/0017286	A1	1/2006	Kosmyna et al.	
2006/0043217	A1	3/2006	Kosmyna et al.	
2006/0049099	A1	3/2006	Chang	
2006/0065591	A1	3/2006	Joseph	
2006/0102550	A1	5/2006	Joseph et al.	
2006/0144960	A1	7/2006	Kosmyna et al.	
2006/0151630	A1	7/2006	Joseph et al.	
2006/0157594	A1	7/2006	Cooke	
2006/0175433	A1	8/2006	Escoto, Jr. et al.	
2006/0196891	A1	9/2006	Gerson et al.	
2006/0273204	A1	12/2006	Joseph et al.	
2006/0283861	A1	12/2006	Kosmyna et al.	
2007/0131793	A1	6/2007	Joseph et al.	
2007/0158348	A1	7/2007	Kosmyna et al.	
2007/0252019	A1	11/2007	Peterson et al.	
2007/0272323	A1	11/2007	Verhaeghe	
2008/0011879	A1	1/2008	Gerson et al.	
2008/0054087	A1	3/2008	Joseph et al.	
2008/0118656	A1	5/2008	Douglas et al.	
2009/0072050	A1	3/2009	Ruda	
2009/0110861	A1	4/2009	Sherman	
2009/0145980	A1	6/2009	Jones	
2009/0166443	A1	7/2009	Joseph et al.	
2009/0183565	A1	7/2009	Shamoon et al.	
2009/0193880	A1	8/2009	Halverson et al.	
2009/0200309	A1	8/2009	Kosmyna et al.	
2010/0108783	A1	5/2010	Joseph et al.	
2010/0139858	A1	6/2010	Douglas et al.	
2010/0163645	A1	7/2010	Johnson et al.	
2010/0243758	A1	9/2010	Juo	
2010/0252143	A1	10/2010	Juo	
2010/0288772	A1	11/2010	Wambeke et al.	
2011/0220737	A1	9/2011	Kwon	
2011/0266368	A1	11/2011	Joseph et al.	
2012/0037529	A1	2/2012	Hall	
2012/0256010	A1	10/2012	Joseph et al.	
2012/0273583	A1	11/2012	Gerson et al.	
2012/0279609	A1	11/2012	Pellegrino et al.	
2012/0279613	A1	11/2012	Pellegrino et al.	
2012/0279887	A1	11/2012	Pellegrino et al.	
2012/0279970	A1	11/2012	Pellegrino et al.	
2012/0280062	A1	11/2012	Pellegrino et al.	
2012/0280063	A1	11/2012	Pellegrino et al.	
2013/0001322	A1	1/2013	Pellegrino et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

AU	2004/202537	A1	1/2005
CA	963436		2/1975
CA	965388		4/1975
CA	1006450		3/1977
CA	1192852	A	9/1985
CA	2099763	A1	7/1992
CA	2569369	A1	7/1998
CA	2660187	A1	7/1998
CA	2595507	A1	6/2006
CA	2277096	C	4/2007
CH	540159	A	8/1973
CH	688082	A	5/1997
CN	1142830	C	3/2004
CN	201702069	U	1/2011
DE	534273	C	9/1931
DE	2412743	A1	9/1975
DE	2900998	A1	7/1980
DE	3020831	A1	12/1981
DE	8304005	U1	6/1983
DE	3439442	A1	4/1986
DE	3517122	C1	5/1986
DE	3507734	A1	9/1986
DE	3346165	C2	4/1987
DE	G 8807118	U1	9/1988
DE	4002190	A1	8/1991
DE	4102326	A1	7/1992
DE	4209258	A1	9/1993
DE	19618514	A1	11/1997
DE	29905100	U1	6/1999
DE	20117496	U1	1/2002
DE	29825015	U1	3/2004
DE	29825119	U1	1/2005
DE	29825120	U1	2/2005
DE	98901823	T1	3/2005
DE	202004003116	U	7/2005
DE	202004003376	U	7/2005
DE	202004006907	U1	10/2005
DE	69831653	T2	9/2006
DE	69836570	T2	9/2007
DE	202009008368	U1	12/2009
EP	0092359	A2	10/1983
EP	0202124	A2	11/1986
EP	0230364	A2	7/1987
EP	0345607	A1	12/1989
EP	0388199	A2	9/1990
EP	0388696	A1	9/1990
EP	0467334	A2	1/1992
EP	0345607	B1	9/1992
EP	0230364	B2	9/1994
EP	0624353	A2	11/1994
EP	0634224	A1	1/1995
EP	0636548	A1	2/1995
EP	0678334	A2	10/1995
EP	0689825	A1	1/1996
EP	0636548	B1	2/1997
EP	0536344	B1	10/1997
EP	0847809	A1	6/1998
EP	0740692	B1	12/1998
EP	0624353	B1	2/1999
EP	0987060	A1	3/2000
EP	1123957	A1	8/2001

(56) **References Cited**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP	1047732	B1	9/2002
EP	1366823	A1	3/2003
EP	1139841	B1	5/2003
EP	1047731	B1	6/2003
EP	1210181	B1	10/2003
EP	1415719	A1	5/2004
EP	1424135	A1	6/2004
EP	1435265	A2	7/2004
EP	1368129	B1	6/2005
EP	1566223	A2	8/2005
EP	1579922	A1	9/2005
EP	1611960	A1	1/2006
EP	1415719	B1	11/2006
EP	000638176-0001		1/2007
EP	1961488	A2	8/2008
EP	2090372	A2	8/2009
EP	2090373	A2	8/2009
EP	2105208	A2	9/2009
EP	1435265	B1	11/2009
EP	2221112	A2	8/2010
EP	1385632	B1	3/2011
EP	2090372	A3	11/2011
EP	2090373	A3	11/2011
EP	2105208	A3	11/2011
FR	1282085		1/1962
FR	2631254	A1	11/1989
FR	2639324	A1	5/1990
FR	2798868	A1	3/2001
GB	202363	A	8/1923
GB	256179	A	6/1927
GB	290866	A	5/1928
GB	843161	A	8/1960
GB	1077369	A	7/1967
GB	1567685		5/1980
GB	2103173	A	2/1983
GB	2170471	A	8/1986
GB	2239821	A	7/1991
GB	2303087	A	2/1997
JP	52113870		9/1977
JP	64-27659		1/1989
JP	JUM3-81879	U	8/1991
JP	JUM 05-39671	U	5/1993
JP	6-328014	A	11/1994
JP	6-335643	A	12/1994
JP	7-289956	A	11/1995
JP	A 08-133338		5/1996
JP	JUM 3027372		5/1996
JP	8-192851	A	7/1996
JP	10007170	A	1/1998
JP	11-028394	A	2/1999
JP	2001508698	A	7/2001
JP	2001-252599	A	9/2001
JP	2007-130521		5/2007
JP	2008-036561	A	2/2008
JP	2008036561	A	2/2008
KR	10-2007-0023711	A	2/2007
KR	10-2010-0052366	A	5/2010
WO	90-15758		12/1990
WO	90-15758	A1	12/1990
WO	9206794	A1	4/1992
WO	92/11930	A1	7/1992
WO	92/14437	A1	9/1992
WO	92/19386	A1	11/1992
WO	9403337	A2	2/1994
WO	9408730	A1	4/1994
WO	95/07762	A1	3/1995
WO	95/11170	A1	4/1995
WO	9519402	A1	7/1995
WO	98/00796	A2	1/1998
WO	98/32539	A1	7/1998
WO	99/06301	A1	2/1999
WO	9936477	A1	7/1999
WO	9936478	A1	7/1999
WO	9940580	A1	8/1999
WO	99/50153	A1	10/1999
WO	00/30844	A1	6/2000
WO	00/38562	A1	7/2000
WO	0114766	A1	3/2001
WO	02072276	A1	9/2002
WO	02/085533	A1	10/2002
WO	03/006170	A2	1/2003
WO	03/045575	A1	6/2003
WO	03095101	A1	11/2003
WO	2004030938	A1	4/2004
WO	2004030939	A1	4/2004
WO	2004/037432	A1	5/2004
WO	2004/037433	A1	5/2004
WO	2004/060574	A1	7/2004
WO	2004/060575	A1	7/2004
WO	2004/082848	A1	9/2004
WO	2004/094072	A1	11/2004
WO	2005/077543	A1	8/2005
WO	2005/115631	A1	12/2005
WO	2005/118151	A1	12/2005
WO	2005/120178	A2	12/2005
WO	2005/120718	A1	12/2005
WO	2006/002497	A1	1/2006
WO	2006/065850	A1	6/2006
WO	2006069015	A1	6/2006
WO	2006098799	A3	9/2006
WO	2007/037921	A1	4/2007
WO	2007075724	A2	7/2007
WO	2006098799	A9	9/2007
WO	2007/149760	A2	12/2007
WO	2007/149760	A3	12/2007
WO	2008022027	A2	2/2008
WO	2008060939	A1	5/2008
WO	2008109733	A1	9/2008
WO	2008154559	A1	12/2008
WO	2009058466	A1	5/2009
WO	2009/076150	A2	6/2009
WO	2009/076150	A3	6/2009
WO	2009120547	A2	10/2009
WO	2010004305	A2	1/2010
WO	2012/068316	A2	5/2012
WO	2012/154619	A2	11/2012
WO	2012/154621	A2	11/2012
WO	2012/154622	A2	11/2012
WO	2012/154623	A2	11/2012
WO	2012/154624	A2	11/2012
WO	2012/154625	A2	11/2012
WO	2013/003592	A2	1/2013

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Answer and Counter-Claim to amended Complaint, *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Illinois Tool Works, Inc. and ITW Finishing, L.L.C.*, Case No. 06-2459 (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota) filed Aug. 21, 2006 (8 pgs).

Answer of Defendants Demand for Jury Trial, *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Louis M. Gerson Co., Inc., and Gerson Professional Products, Inc.*, Civil No. 08-04960 JRT-FLN (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota), filed Oct. 15, 2008 (4 pages).

Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial, *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Illinois Tool Works, Inc. and ITW DeVilbiss*, Case No. 06-2459 (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota), filed Jun. 16, 2006 (29 pgs).

Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial, *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Louis M. Gerson Co, Inc., and Gerson Professional Products, Inc.*, Civil No. 08-04960 JRT-FLN (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota), filed Aug. 19, 2008 (30 pages).

Defendants' Claim Chart, *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Louis M. Gerson Co., Inc., and Gerson Professional Products, Inc.*, Civil No. 08-04960 JRT-FLN (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota), filed Mar. 2, 2009 (140 pages).

Defendants' Identification of Claim Terms, Phrases or Clauses That May Require Court Construction, *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Louis M. Gerson Co., Inc., and Gerson Professional Products, Inc.*, Civil No. 08-04960 JRT-FLN (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota), filed Apr. 6, 2009 (3 pages).

(56) **References Cited**

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Defendant's Prior Art Statement, *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Illinois Tool Works, Inc. and ITW Finishing LLC*, Case No. 06-2459 [U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota] filed Apr. 2, 2007 [12 pages].

Defendants' Prior Art Statement, *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Louis M. Gerson Co., Inc., and Gerson Professional Products, Inc.*, Civil No. 08-04960 JRT-FLN (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota), filed Mar. 2, 2009 (46 pages).

DeVilbiss Products PT-500, 510 and 520 2 1/2 Gallon Pressure Tank, Oct. 1998, 7 pages.

DeVilbiss Industrial Distributor Net Price List Spray Equipment, DDP-104, Supplement 1, Oct. 1, 1988, 3 pages.

Falkman, M.A. Plastic Discs Scrap Waste for Disposable Containers. Packaging Digest, Jun. 1996, 2 pages.

Louis M. Gerson Co., Inc. and Gerson Professional Products, Inc. Answers to 3M's First Set of Interrogatories to Gerson (Nos. 1-22), *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Louis M. Gerson Co., Inc., and Gerson Professional Products, Inc.*, Civil No. 08-04960 JRT-FLN (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota), filed Dec. 11, 2008 (14 pages).

Notice of Opposition and Grounds of Opposition to European Patent No. EP 0954381, *Illinois Tool Works, Inc.* vs. *3M Company*, dated Jun. 19, 2006, 21 pages.

Plaintiffs' Claim Chart, *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Louis M. Gerson Co., Inc., and Gerson Professional Products, Inc.*, Civil No. 08-04960 JRT-FLN (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota), filed Feb. 2, 2009 (52 pages).

Plaintiffs' Prior Art Statement, *3M Innovative Properties Company and 3M Company* vs. *Louis M. Gerson Co., Inc., and Gerson Professional Products, Inc.*, Civil No. 08-04960 JRT-FLN (U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota), filed Apr. 1, 2009 (25 pages).

Service Bulletin, SB-4-043-D, Replaces SB-4-043-C, De Vilbiss, "120175 (GFC-502) 32 Oz. Aluminum Gravity Feed Cup with Disposable Lid and Cup Liner", May 2000.

Service Bulletin; SB-21-041-B, replaces SB-21-041-A, PT-500, 510, and 520 2 1/2 Gallon Pressure Tank, Oct. 1987 product literature, 6 pages.

International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US05/45146 dated Apr. 21, 2006.

International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US11/61091 dated May 11, 2012.

International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US12/36680 dated Nov. 16, 2012.

International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US12/36684 dated Nov. 23, 2012.

International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US12/36682 dated Nov. 23, 2012.

International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US12/36685 dated Nov. 23, 2012.

International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US12/36686 dated Nov. 23, 2012.

International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US12/36687 dated Nov. 30, 2012.

Inter Partes Reexamination of U.S. Pat. No. 7,374,111 filed Dec. 9, 2008, issued Reexamination No. 95/000,422, 86 pages.

International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US12/44648 dated Jan. 24, 2013.

U.S. Appl. No. 13/728,678, filed Dec. 27, 2012, entitled "Convertible Paint Cup Assembly with Air Inlet Valve".

International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US2012/071843 dated Apr. 29, 2013.

DeVilbiss PT-500, 510 and 520 2 1/2 Gallon Pressure Tank service bulletin—SB-21-041-B., Publication Date Unknown, 6 pages.

SATA Jet 90, Operating Instructions, SATA-Fabspritztechnik GmH & Co., Publication Date Unknown, 6 pages.

SATA GmbH & Co. KG, "SATA RPS—The cup system for mixing and painting", K-126995/4022-063, Publication Date Unknown, 4 pages.

Extended European Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US2012/036684 dated Mar. 4, 2015.

Extended European Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/US2012/036687 dated Dec. 19, 2014.

* cited by examiner

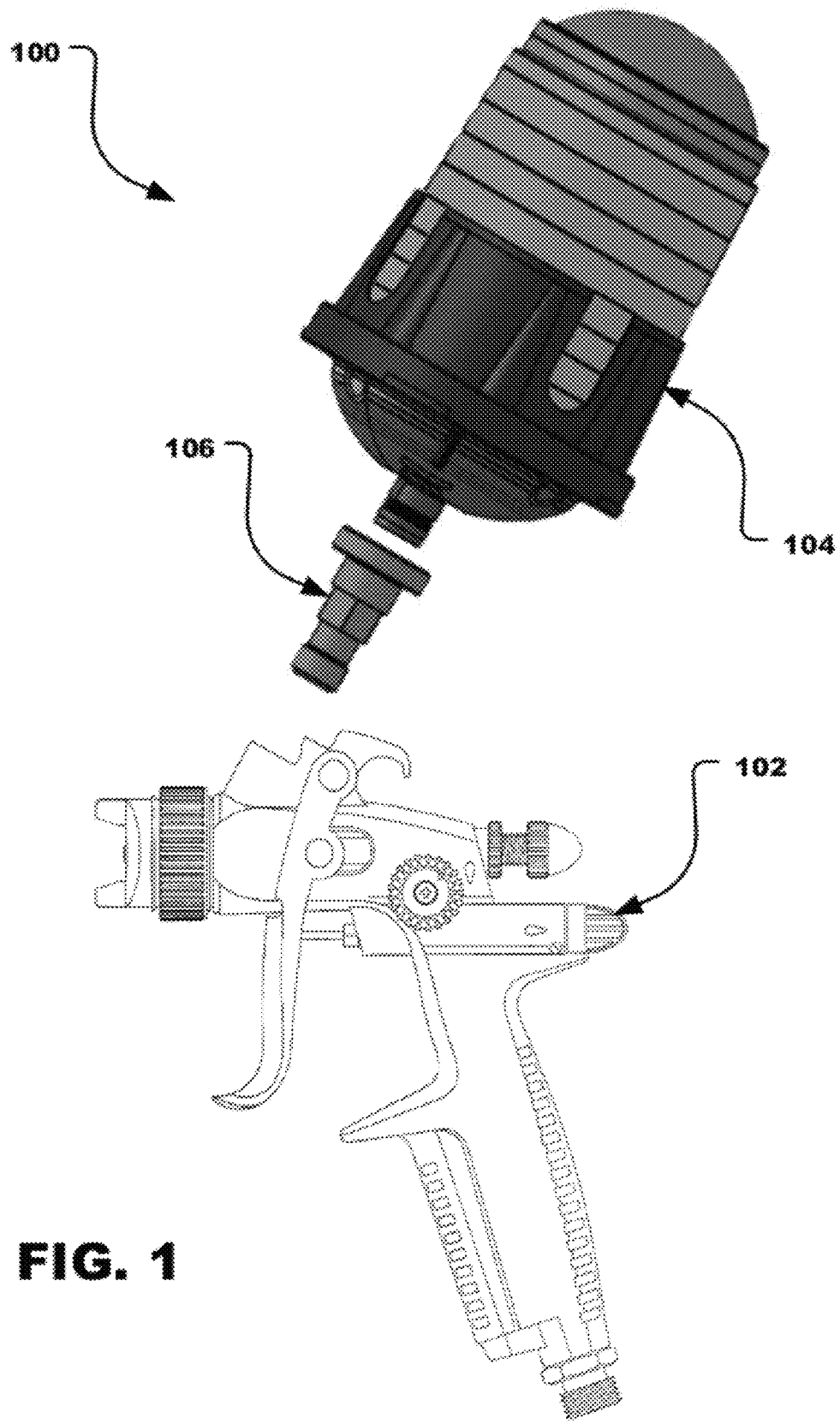


FIG. 1

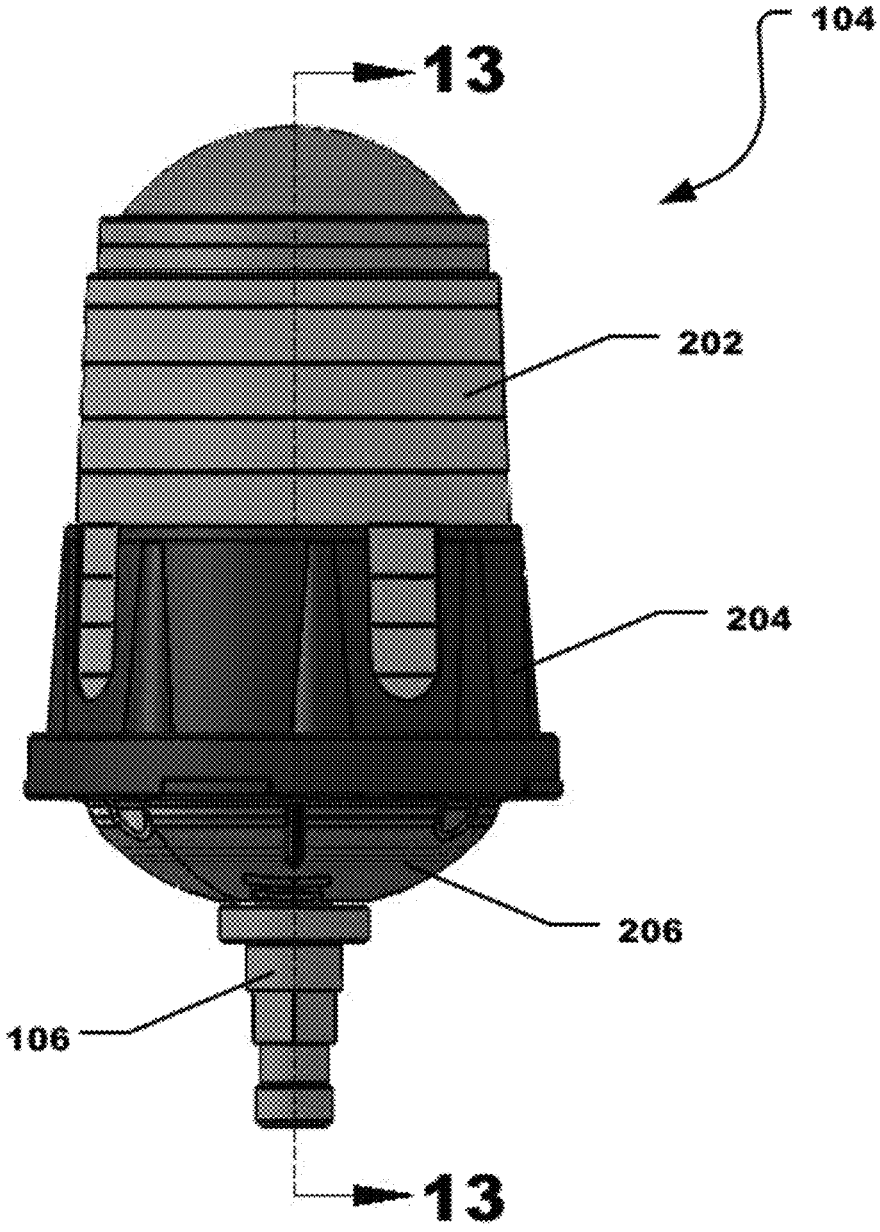


FIG. 2

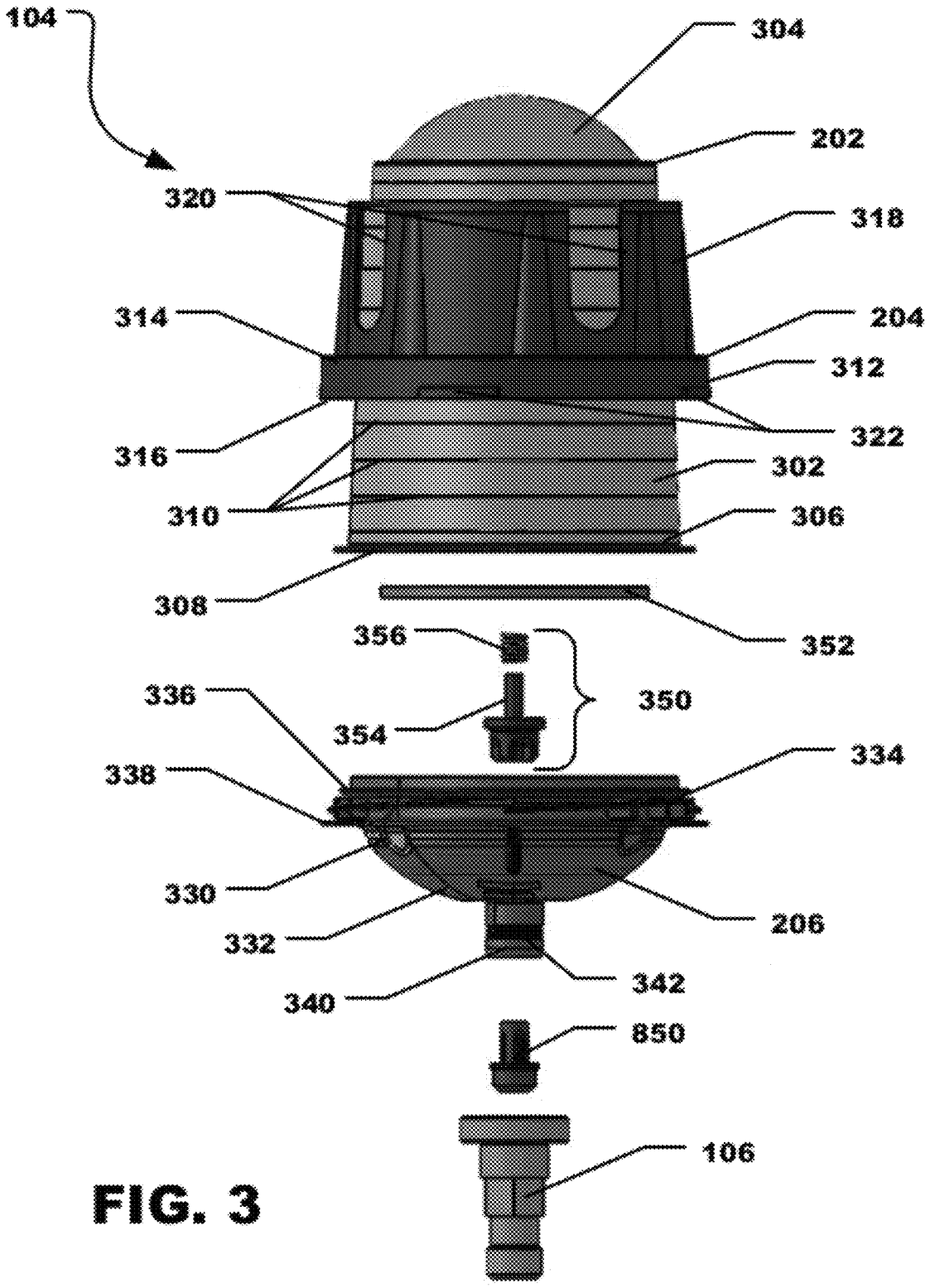

104
304
202
320
318
314
204
312
322
316
302
310
306
308
352
356
350
336
354
334
338
330
206
332
342
340
850
106

FIG. 3

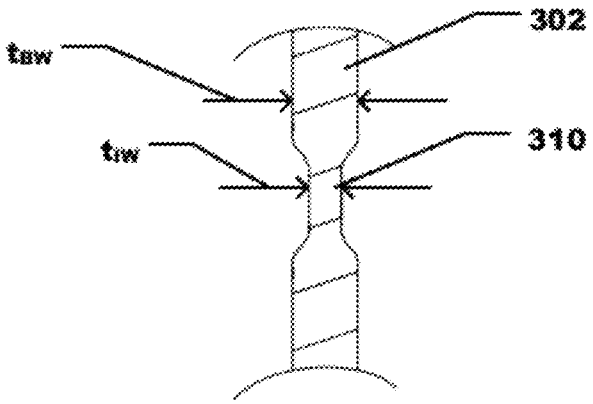


FIG. 3a

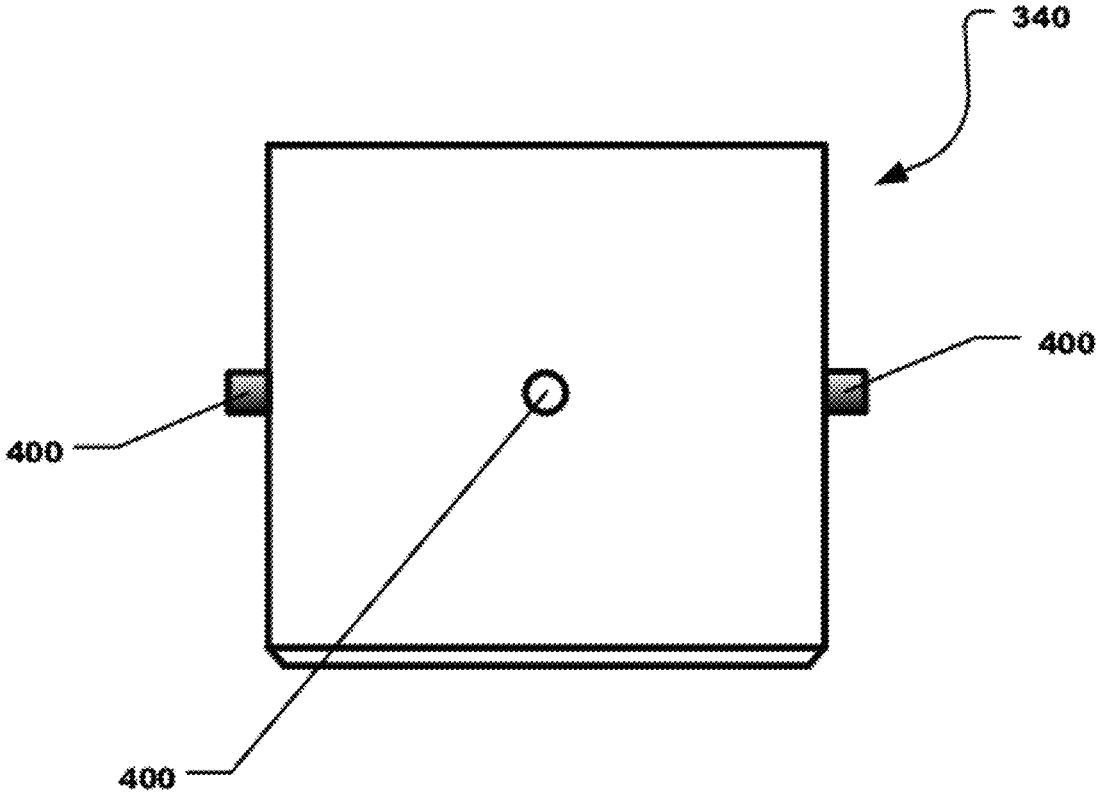


FIG. 4

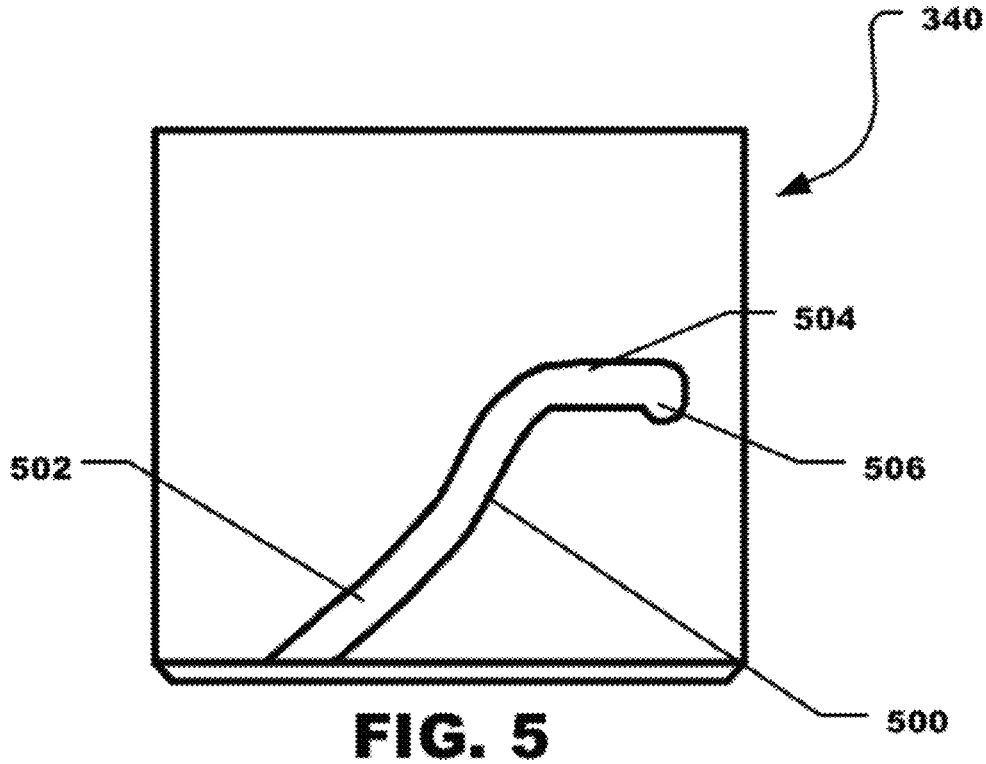


FIG. 5

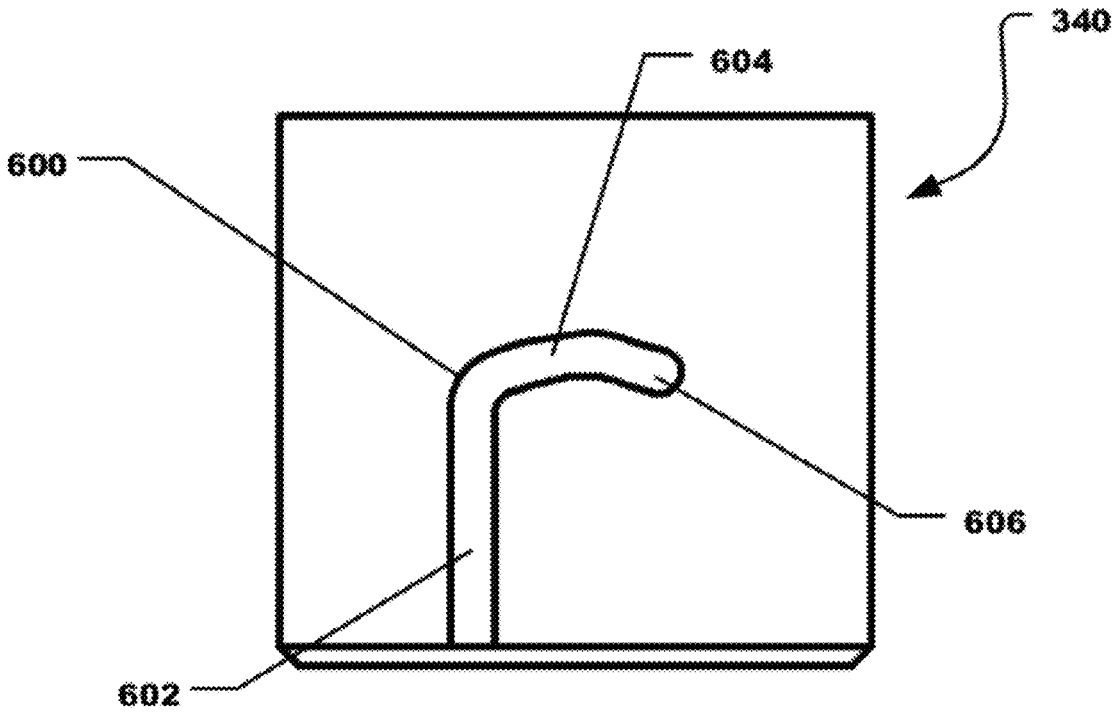


FIG. 6

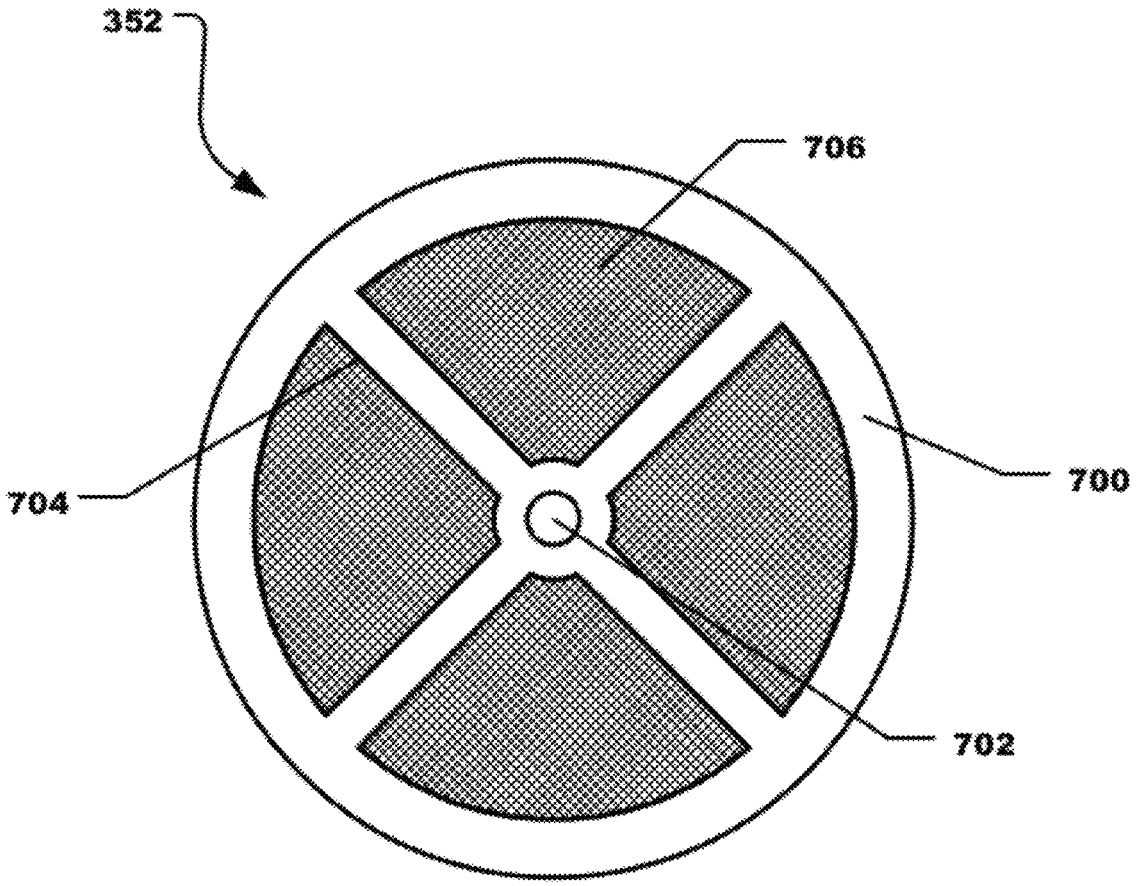


FIG. 7

FIG. 8

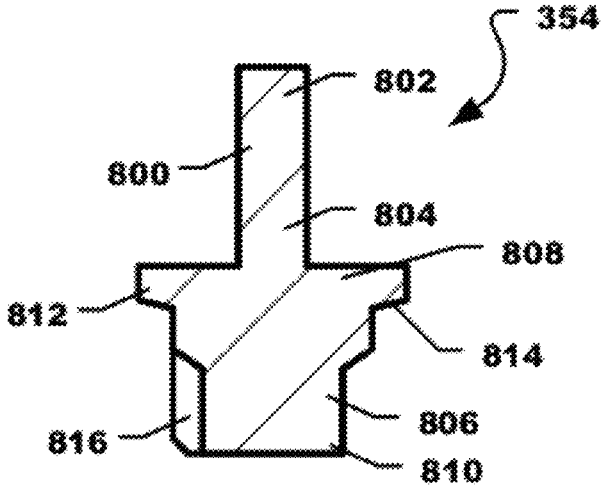


FIG. 9

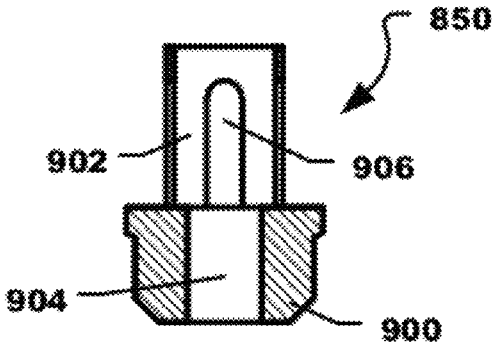
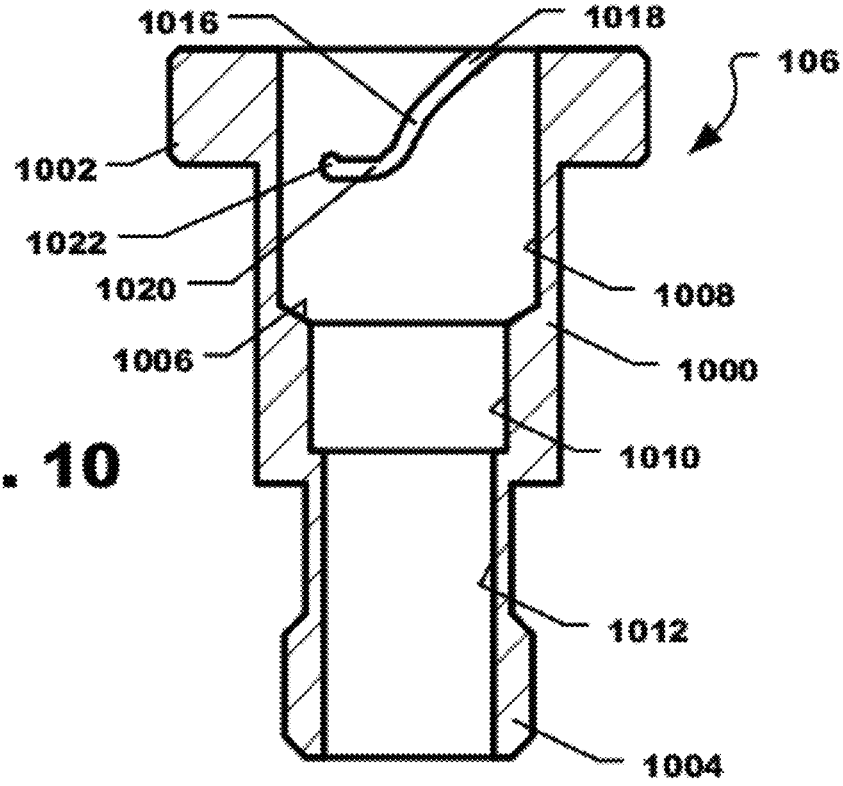


FIG. 10



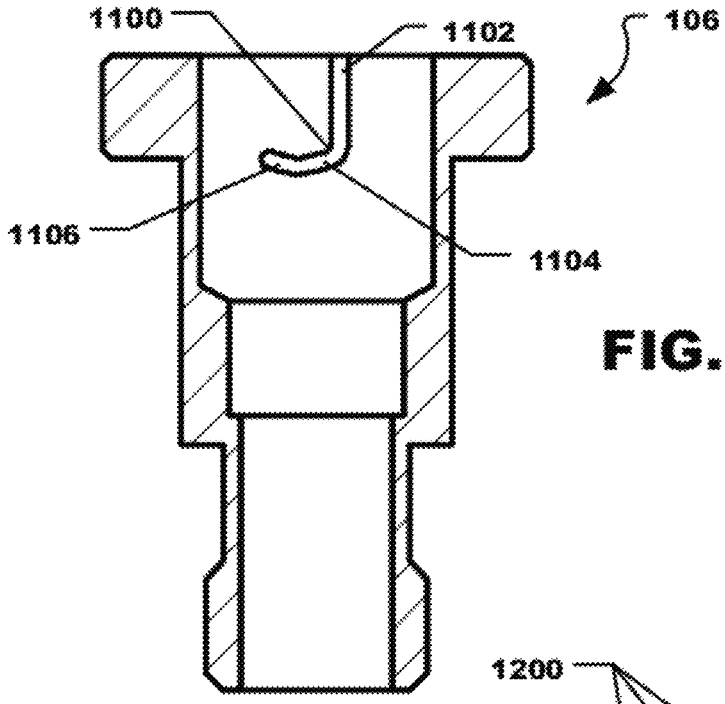


FIG. 11

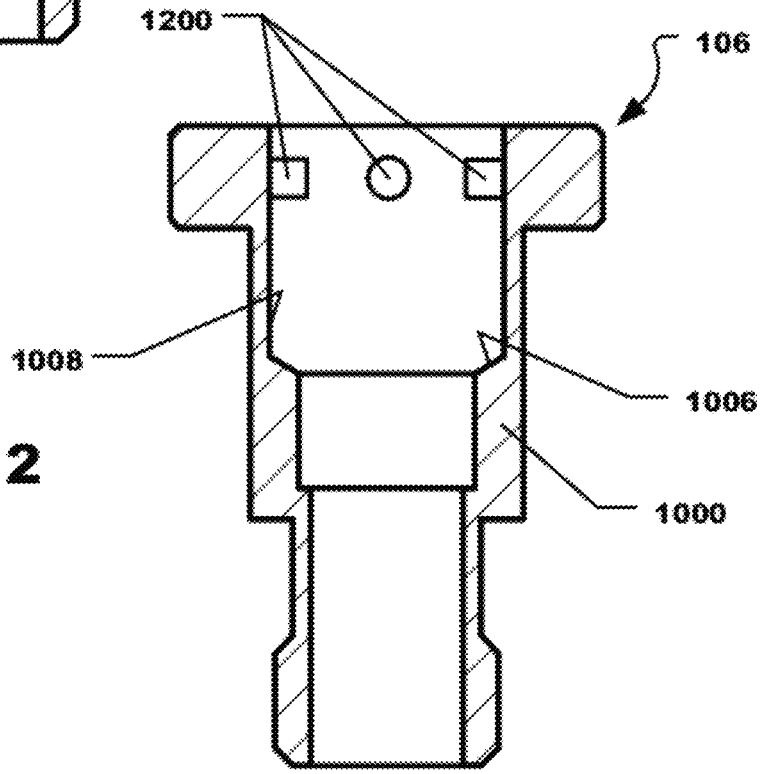


FIG. 12

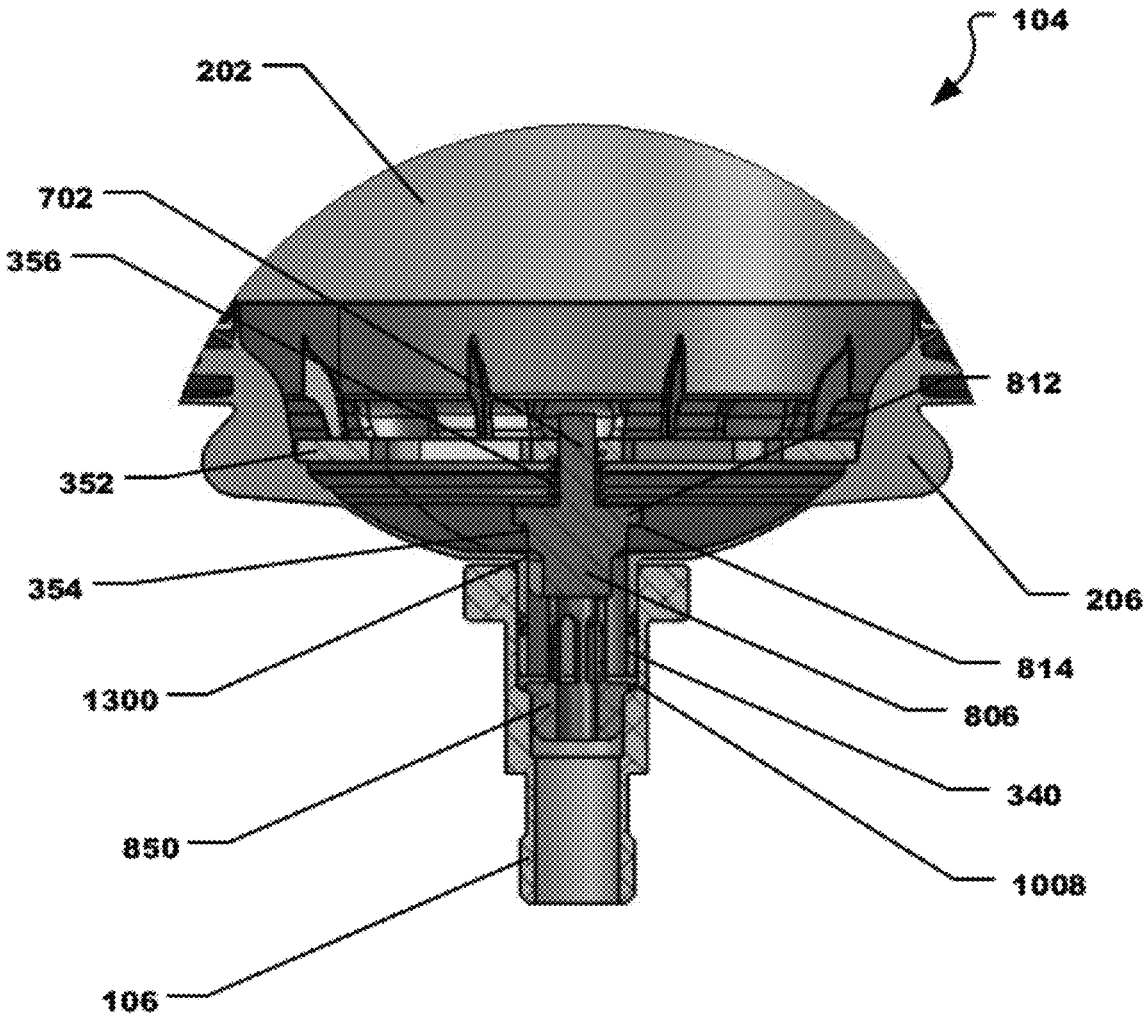


FIG. 13

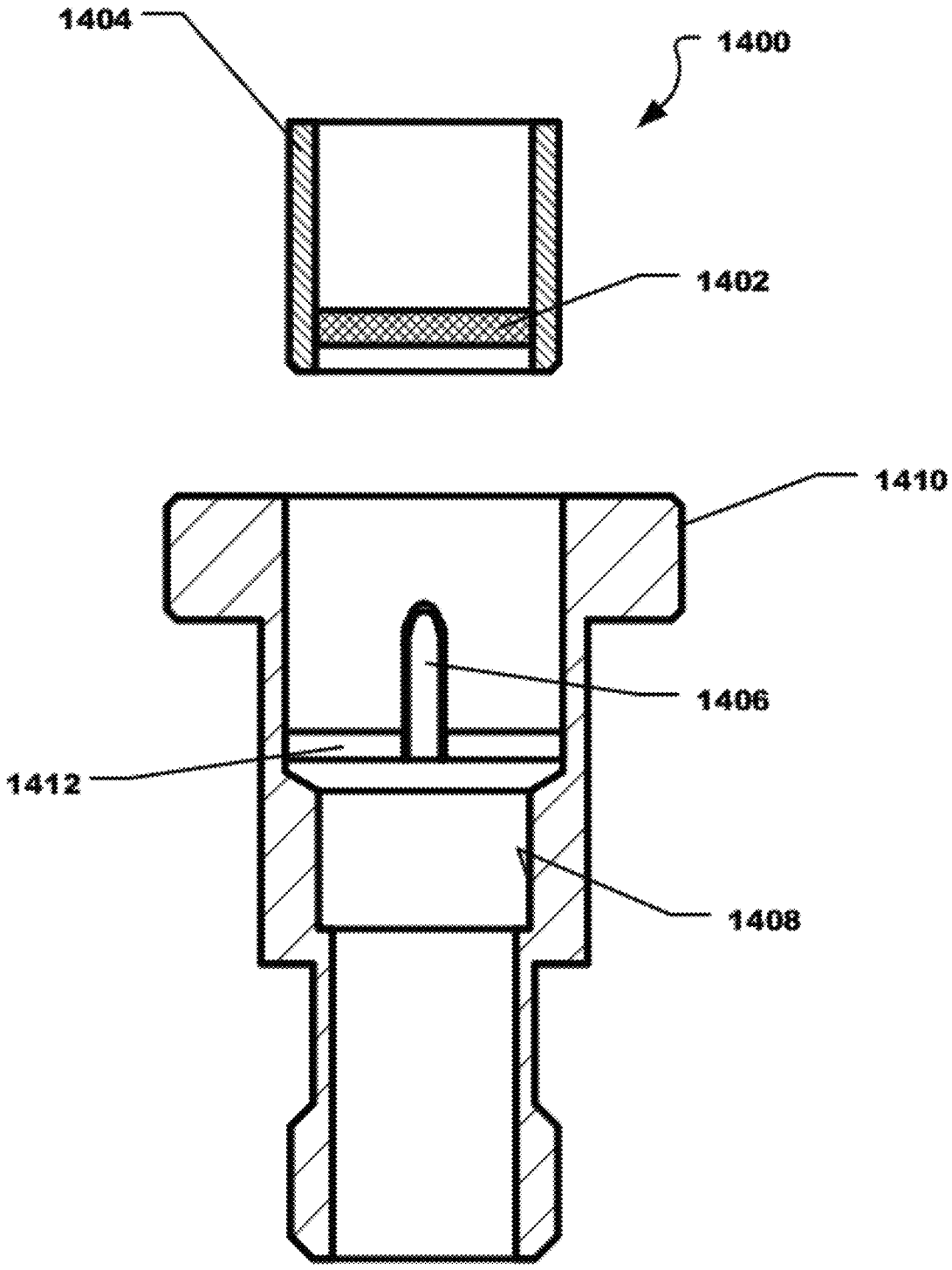


FIG. 14

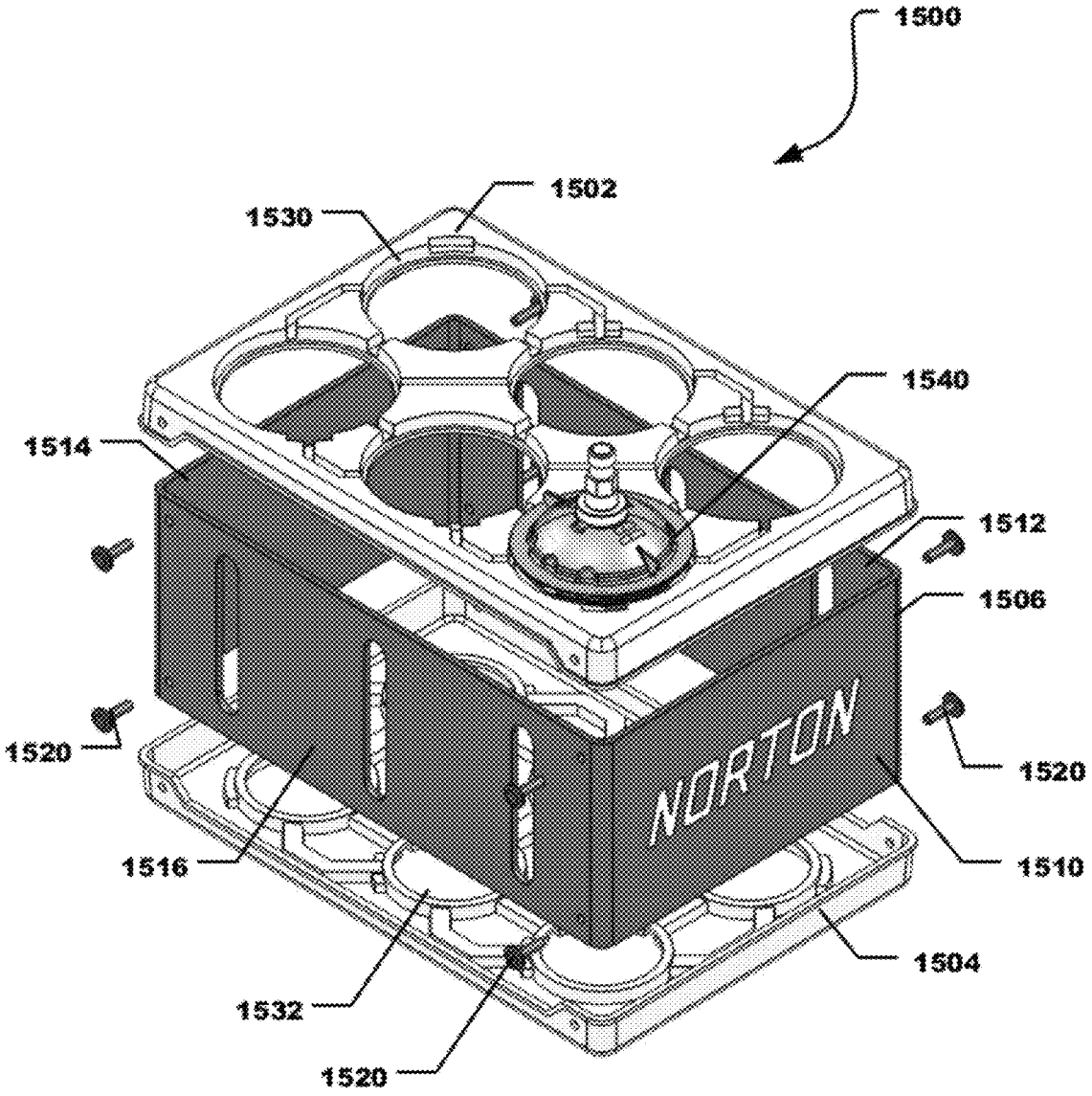

1500
1502
1530
1540
1514
1512
1506
1520
1520
1516
1510
1504
1532
1520
NORTON

FIG. 15

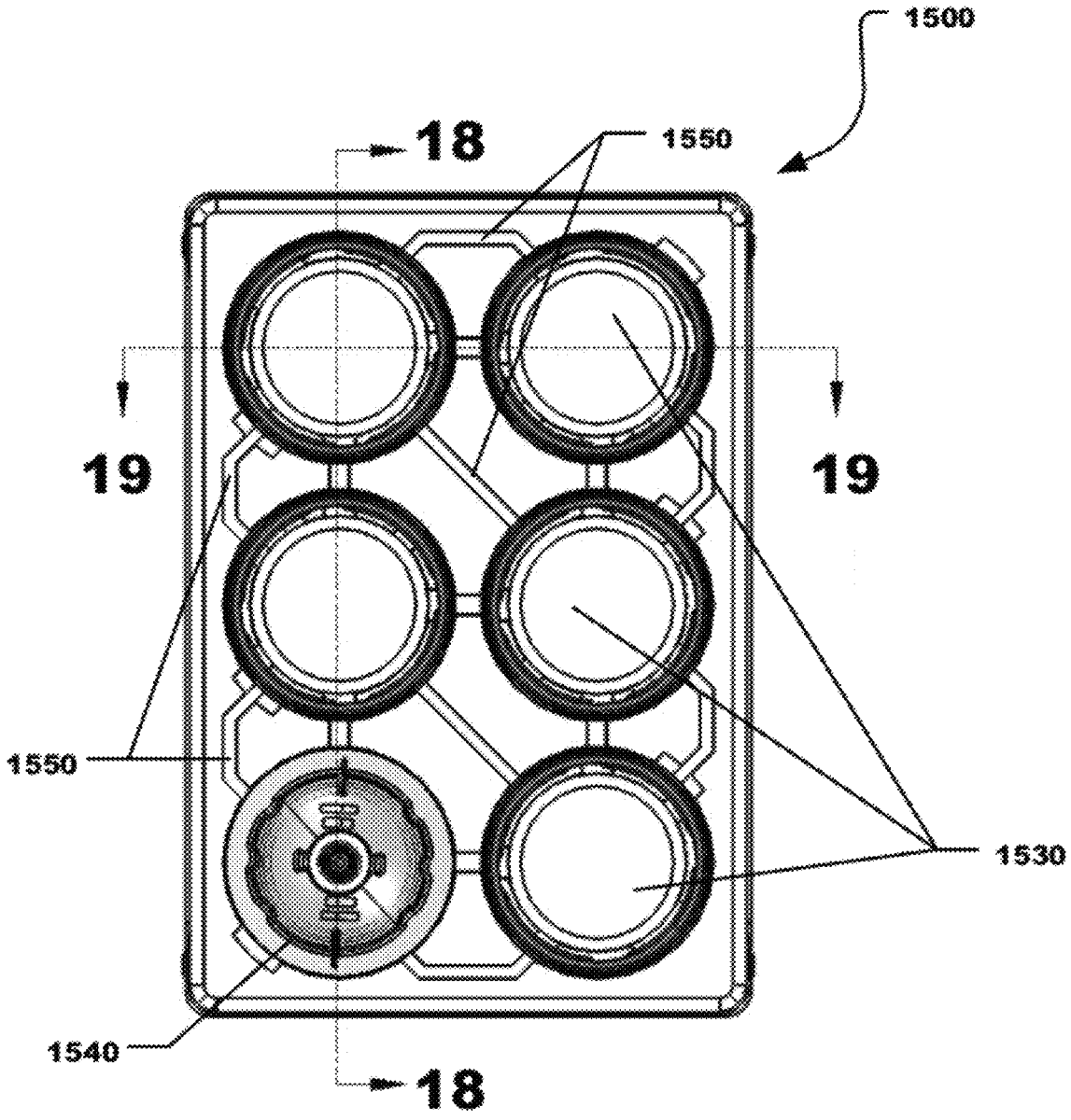


FIG. 16

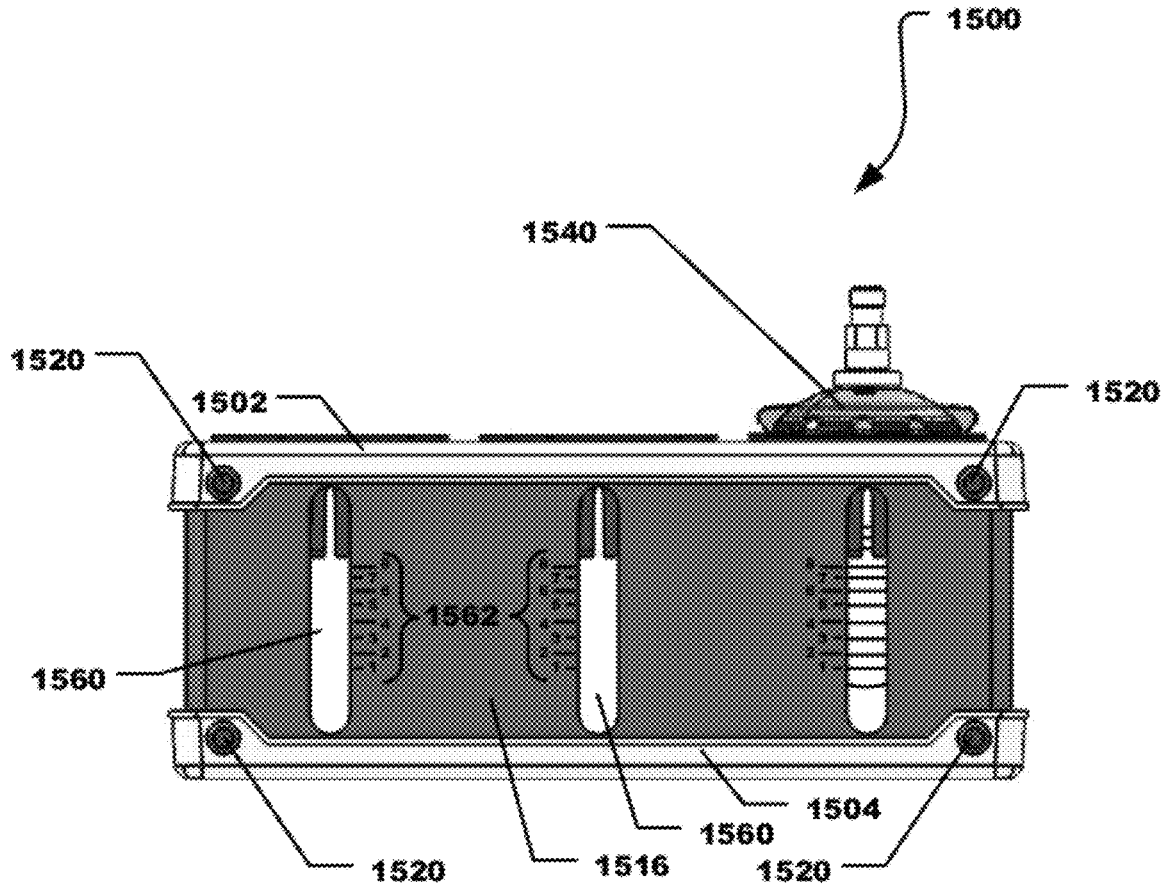


FIG. 17

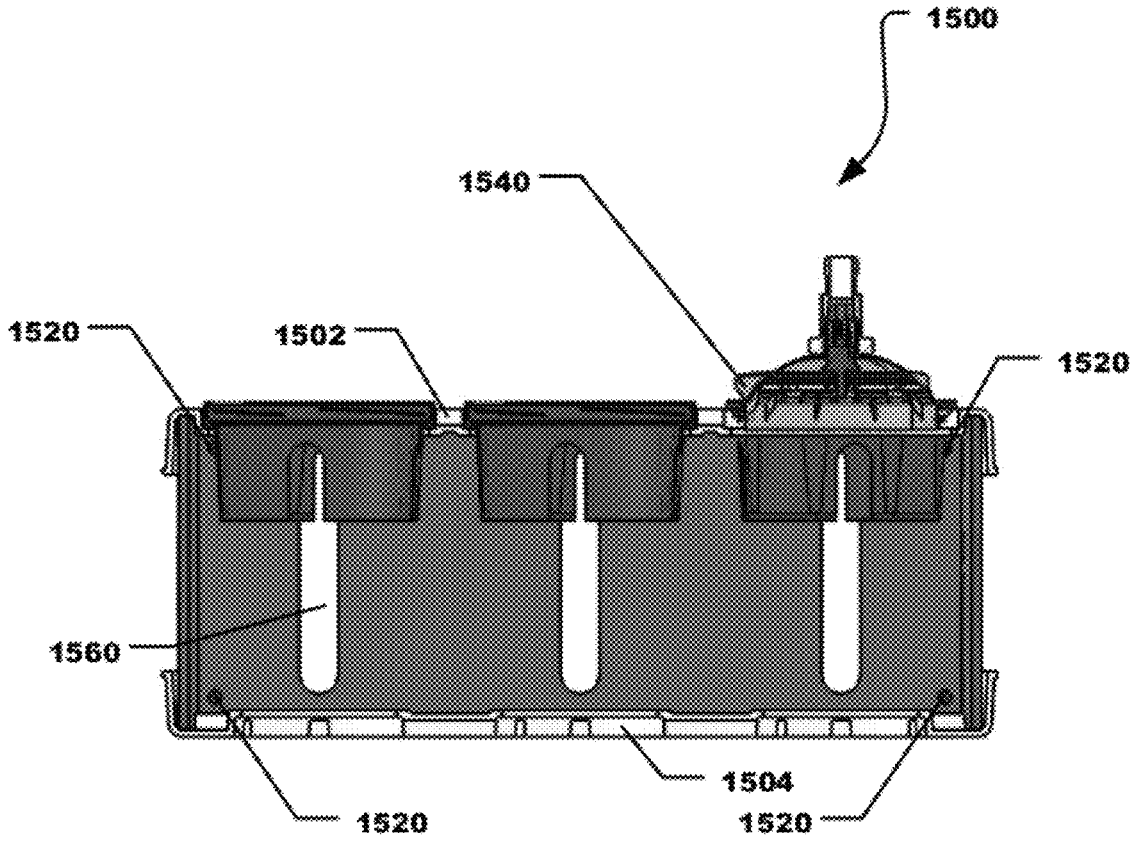


FIG. 18

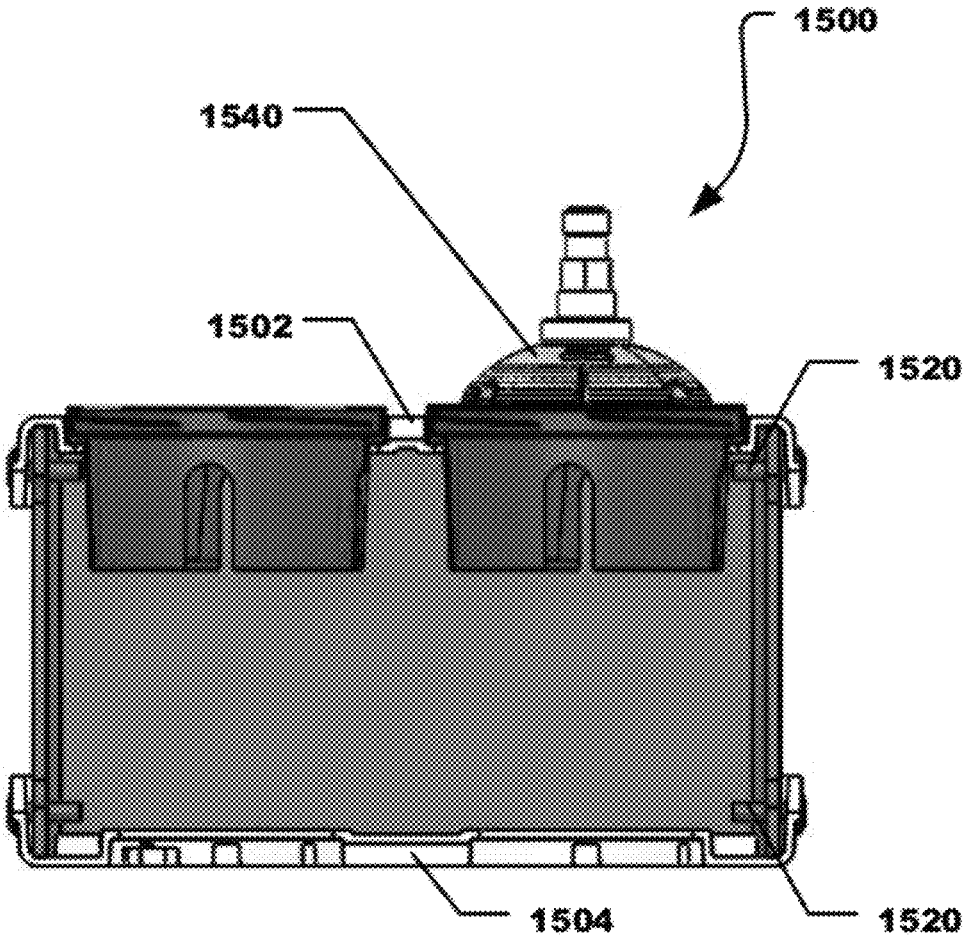


FIG. 19

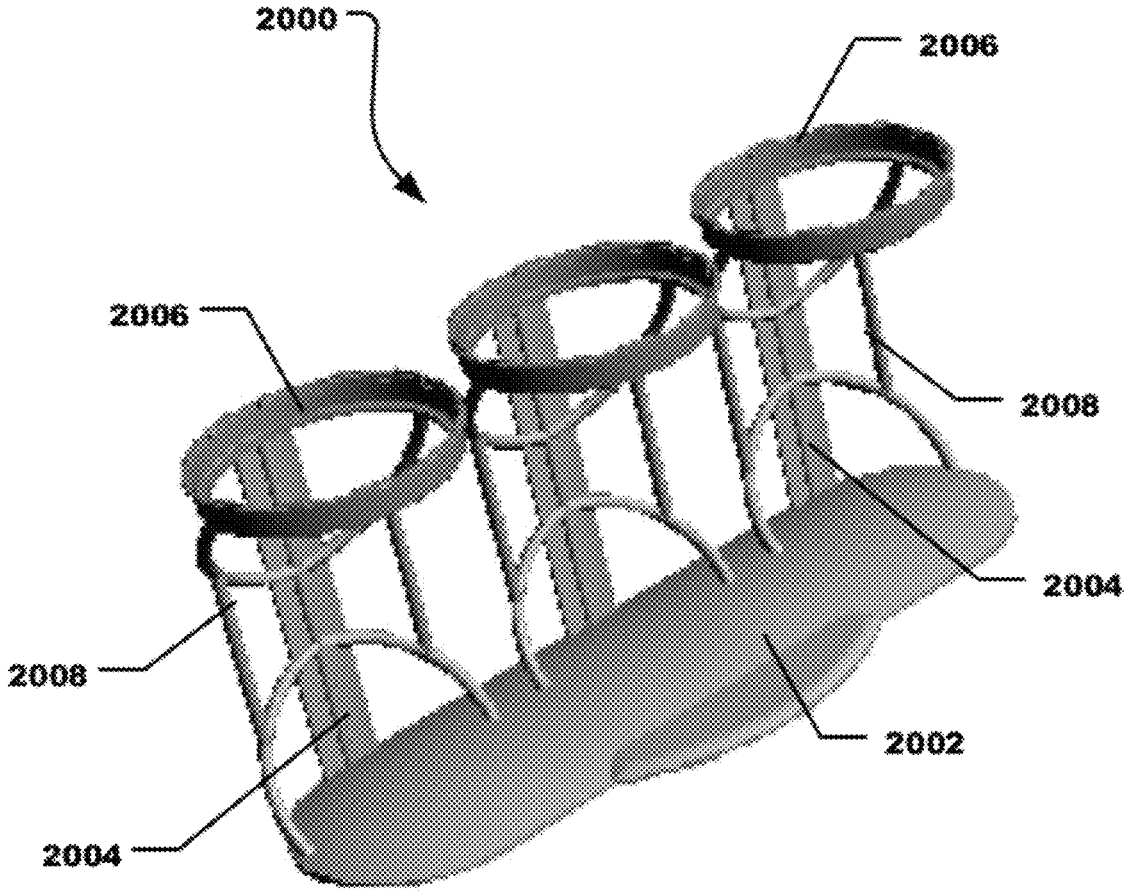


FIG. 20

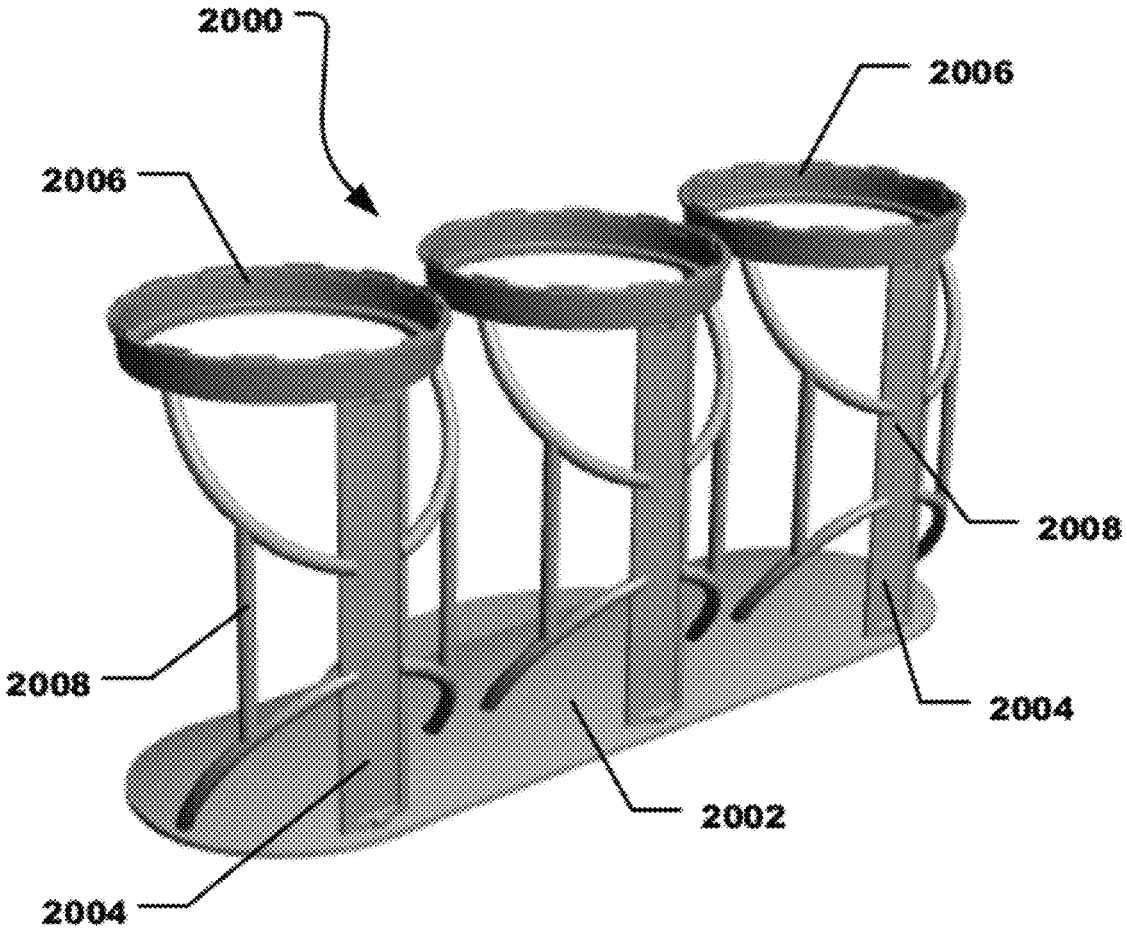


FIG. 21

METHOD OF USING A PAINT CUP ASSEMBLY

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

The present application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/483,524, filed May 6, 2011, entitled "PAINT CUP ASSEMBLY," naming inventors Biagio P. Pellegrino, Clemens E. Zoellner, Thomas R. Nixon, Christopher J. Chilton and Ronald J. Cuccia, which application is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure is directed to a paint cup assembly and to a method of using a paint cup assembly.

BACKGROUND

Spray guns can be used for rapidly coating surfaces with liquids, such as paint. Paint can be contained in a container that attaches to the spray gun. The outlet of the container can be a releasably connectable coupling that connects to the spray gun. Paint can flow from the container into the spray gun and then, fed to a spray nozzle. The spray nozzle can combine the paint with air, atomize the liquid, and form a spray. At the end of the spraying operation, the container and the mating connection to the spray gun should be thoroughly cleaned so that the paint from one operation does not contaminate the paint to be sprayed in the next spraying operation. Additionally, the coupling between container and spray gun should be free of any dried liquid that might interfere with the connection between container and spray gun. A container with a lid and a disposable cup or liner can be used to eliminate or reduce the labor required to clean the container and the coupling to the spray gun.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Embodiments are illustrated by way of example and are not limited in the accompanying figures.

FIG. **1** includes a plan view of a paint sprayer assembly in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **2** includes a plan view of a paint cup assembly engaged with an adapter in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **3** includes an exploded plan view of a paint cup assembly and an adapter in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **3***a* includes a detailed cross-sectional view of a paint liner.

FIG. **4** includes a detailed plan view of a first embodiment of a paint cup assembly outlet tube in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **5** includes a detailed plan view of a second embodiment of a paint cup assembly outlet tube in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **6** includes a detailed plan view of a third embodiment of a paint cup assembly outlet tube in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **7** includes a plan view of a valve retainer in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **8** includes a cross-sectional view of a valve plunger in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **9** includes a cross-sectional view of a valve actuator in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **10** includes a cross-sectional view of a first embodiment of an adapter in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **11** includes a cross-sectional view of a second embodiment of an adapter in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **12** includes a cross-sectional view of a third embodiment of an adapter in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **13** includes a cross-sectional view of the paint cup assembly taken along line **13-13** in FIG. **2** in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **14** includes a detailed plan view of a third embodiment of a paint cup assembly valve assembly in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **15** includes a perspective view of a paint cup assembly filling station in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **16** includes a top plan view of a paint cup assembly filling station in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **17** includes a side plan view of a paint cup assembly filling station in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **18** includes a first cross-sectional view of a paint cup assembly filling station in accordance with a particular embodiment taken along line **18-18** in FIG. **16**.

FIG. **19** includes a second cross-sectional view of a paint cup assembly filling station in accordance with a particular embodiment taken along line **19-19** in FIG. **16**.

FIG. **20** includes a first perspective view of a paint cup assembly support stand in accordance with a particular embodiment.

FIG. **21** includes a second perspective view of a paint cup assembly support stand in accordance with a particular embodiment.

Skilled artisans appreciate that elements in the figures are illustrated for simplicity and clarity and have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements in the figures can be exaggerated relative to other elements to help to improve understanding of embodiments of the invention. The use of the same reference symbols in different drawings indicates similar or identical items.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following description in combination with the figures is provided to assist in understanding the teachings disclosed herein. The following discussion will focus on specific implementations and embodiments of the teachings. This focus is provided to assist in describing the teachings and should not be interpreted as a limitation on the scope or applicability of the teachings.

As used herein, the terms "comprises," "comprising," "includes," "including," "has," "having," or any other variation thereof, are intended to cover a non-exclusive inclusion. For example, a process, method, article, or apparatus that comprises a list of features is not necessarily limited only to those features but can include other features not expressly listed or other features that are inherent to such process, method, article, or apparatus. Further, unless expressly stated to the contrary, "or" refers to an inclusive-or and not to an exclusive-or. For example, a condition A or B is satisfied by any one of the following: A is true (or present) and B is false (or not present), A is false (or not present) and B is true (or present), and both A and B are true (or present).

The use of "a" or "an" is employed to describe elements and components described herein. This is done merely for convenience and to give a general sense of the scope of the

embodiments of the disclosure. This description should be read to include one or at least one and the singular also includes the plural, or vice versa, unless it is clear that it is meant otherwise.

Unless otherwise defined, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure belongs. The materials, methods, and examples are illustrative only and not intended to be limiting.

Referring initially to FIG. **1**, a paint sprayer assembly is illustrated and is generally designated **100**. As illustrated, the paint sprayer assembly **100** includes a paint spray gun **102** and a paint cup assembly **104** that can be removably engaged with the paint spray gun **102** via an adapter **106**. In a particular aspect, the adapter **106** can be threadably engaged with the paint spray gun **102** and the paint cup assembly **104** can be inserted into the adapter **104**. Further, during operation of the paint spray gun **102**, the paint cup assembly **104** can be in fluid communication with the paint spray gun **102**. Specifically, the paint cup assembly **104** can deliver paint to the paint spray gun **102** and the paint spray gun **102** can be used to transmit the fluid, e.g., paint, to a substrate, e.g., a car body.

FIG. **2** through FIG. **9** illustrate details concerning the paint cup assembly **104** that is depicted in FIG. **1** in conjunction with the paint spray gun **102**. Specifically, FIG. **2** and FIG. **3** include details concerning the paint cup assembly **104** in its entirety and FIG. **4** through FIG. **9** illustrate details concerning various component parts of the paint cup assembly **104**.

As indicated in FIG. **2** and FIG. **3**, the paint cup assembly **104** can include a paint reservoir, e.g., a paint liner **202**. The paint cup assembly **104** can also include an extended ring **204** that can at least partially surround the paint liner **202**. In a particular aspect, the extended ring **204** can include an axial extension, e.g., a skirt, that can extend toward a closed proximal end of the paint liner such that the ring can be configured to allow a user to grasp the paint cup assembly without collapsing the paint liner during attachment with a paint sprayer. As illustrated, the paint cup assembly **104** can include a cap **206** that can be threadably engaged with the extended ring **204**. As described in detail below, the cap **206** can engage the adapter **106** in order for the paint cup assembly **104** to be attached to a spray gun (not illustrated).

FIG. **3** indicates that the paint liner **202** can include a hollow body **302** that defines a proximal end **304** and a distal end **306**. The hollow body **302** can be generally frustoconical. The proximal end **304** of the hollow body **302** can be closed. Further, the proximal end **304** of the hollow body **302** can be rounded. The distal end **306** of the hollow body **302** can be open and can facilitate filling the paint liner **202** with paint, as described in detail below. The hollow body **302** can also include a rim **308** that circumscribes the distal end **306** of the hollow body **302**. When the extended ring **204** is engaged with the cap **206**, the rim **308** of the paint liner **202** can be captured, or otherwise trapped, between the extended ring **204** and the cap **206**.

In a particular aspect, the paint liner **202**, including the hollow body **302**, can be transparent. In another aspect, the paint liner **202**, including the hollow body **302**, can be translucent. In still another aspect, the paint liner **202**, including the hollow body **302**, can be opaque. In still another aspect, portions of the paint liner **202** can be opaque and other portions can be transparent, translucent, or a combination thereof. For example, the paint liner **202** can substantially opaque with one or more transparent strips to facilitate measuring while filling the paint liner **202** with paint.

In a particular aspect, the paint liner **202** can be disposable. Further, in a particular aspect, the paint liner **202** can be collapsible. Specifically, the paint liner **202** can be collapsible as paint is withdrawn from within the paint liner **202**. Also, in a particular aspect, the paint liner **202** can be constructed from low density polyethylene (LDPE).

As illustrated in FIG. **3**, the paint liner **202** can include a plurality of indicia **310** spaced along the length of the hollow body **302** of the paint liner **202**. Each of the indicia can be space along the length of the hollow body **302**. Each of the indicia **310** can represent an incremental change in an internal volume of the paint liner. In a particular aspect, the plurality of indicia **310** can be lines that are printed, or otherwise disposed, on an exterior surface of the body **302**. In another aspect, the plurality of indicia **310** can be printed, or otherwise disposed, on an interior surface of the body **302**. In still another aspect, the plurality of indicia **310** can be printed, or otherwise disposed, on an interior surface of the body **302** and on an exterior surface of the body **302**. The indicia **310** can partially circumscribe the body **302**. Alternatively, the indicia **310** can fully circumscribe the body **302**.

It can be appreciated that the volume between adjacent indicia can be the same. Further, it can be appreciated that due to the tapered shape of the body **302** the spacing of the indicia along the body can vary.

In a particular aspect, each of the plurality of indicia **310** can be a raised rib extending from the body. Each of the ribs can extend internally into the body. Conversely, each of the ribs can extend externally, or outwardly, from the body.

In another aspect, each of the indicia **310** can serve as a crush zone to facilitate collapsing of the paint liner **202** as paint is expressed from the paint liner **202** during a spraying operation. As illustrated in FIG. **3***a*, the body **302** of the paint liner **202** can have a body wall thickness, t_{BW}, and each of the indicia **310** can have an indicia wall thickness, t_{IW}, and the indicia wall thickness can be less than the body wall thickness.

In a particular aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to ninety percent (90%) of the body wall thickness. In another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to eighty-five percent (85%) of the body wall thickness. In yet another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to eighty percent (80%) of the body wall thickness. In still another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the body wall thickness. In another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to seventy percent (70%) of the body wall thickness. In still yet another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to sixty-five percent (65%) of the body wall thickness. In yet another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to sixty percent (60%) of the body wall thickness.

In another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to fifty-five percent (55%) of the body wall thickness. In still another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to fifty percent (50%) of the body wall thickness. In another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to forty-five percent (45%) of the body wall thickness. In another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to forty percent (40%) of the body wall thickness. In yet another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to thirty-five percent (35%) of the body wall thickness. Further, in another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to thirty percent (30%) of the body wall thickness. In still another aspect, the indicia wall thickness can be less than or equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the body wall thickness. In another aspect, the indicia wall thickness may not be less than twenty percent (20%) of the body wall thickness. Further, the

indicia wall thickness can be within a range between and including any of the percentage of body wall thickness values described herein.

Returning to FIG. **3**, the extended ring **204** can include a hub **312** having a proximal end **314** and a distal end **316**. As illustrated, a skirt **318** can extend longitudinally from the proximal end **314** of the hub **312**. The skirt **318** can be formed with a plurality of slots **320**. The slots **320** can allow a user to see the indicia **310** on the paint liner **202** while filling the paint liner **202** with paint.

FIG. **3** indicates that the distal end **316** of the hub **312** can be formed with a plurality of teeth **322** that extend radially outward from the hub **312**. Accordingly, when viewed from the distal end **316**, the hub **312** of the extended ring **204** can have a gear, or cog, shape. This gear, or cog, shape can be configured to key the paint cup assembly **104** to a filling station, described in detail below, during filling. Specifically, the gear shape can be configured to fit into a correspondingly shaped hole formed in a filling station in order to prevent the paint cup assembly **104** from rotating within the hole as the extended ring **204** is engaged with the cap **206**.

The hub **312** can include an interior surface (not illustrated) that can be formed with a plurality of internal threads. As such, the hub **312**, and the extended ring **204**, can be configured to threadably engage the cap **206**. When assembled, as illustrated in FIG. **2**, the skirt **318** of the extended ring **204** can at least partially surround the paint liner **202**. Further, the skirt **318** can extend at least partially along the length of the paint liner **202**. In a particular aspect, the skirt **318** can be substantially rigid and the skirt **318** can be configured to be grasped without collapsing the paint liner **202**. Particularly, the extended ring **204** can be constructed from twenty percent (20%) talc filled polypropylene.

As further illustrated in FIG. **3**, the cap **206** of the paint cup assembly **104** can include generally hemispherical hollow body **329** having a proximal end **330** and a distal end **332**. The proximal end **330** of the cap **206** can be formed with a plurality of external threads **334** that are configured to engage the internal threads (not illustrated) formed in the hub **312** of the extended ring **204**. The cap **206** can also include a primary sealing structure **336** and a secondary sealing structure **338**. The cap **206** can also include an external rim **339** having an external diameter. The primary sealing structure **336** can be located at a distance from the external rim **339** and the secondary sealing structure **338** can be located between the primary sealing structure **336** and the external rim **339**.

During use, the extended ring **204** can be threaded onto the cap **206** and the rim **308** of the paint liner **202** can be sandwiched between the extended ring **204** and the cap **206**. A primary seal can be established between the rim **308** of the paint liner **202** and the primary sealing structure **336** on the cap **206**. The primary seal can substantially prevent fluid from leaking through the interface established by the paint liner **202** and the cap **206**. A secondary seal can be established between secondary sealing structure **338** on the cap **206** and the hub **312** of the extended ring **204**. The secondary seal can substantially prevent fluid from leaking through the interface established by the cap **206** and the extended ring **204**.

Accordingly, when the paint cup assembly **104** is filled with fluid and assembled as illustrated in FIG. **1**, the paint cup assembly **104** can be shaken to stir, or otherwise mix, the fluid within the paint cup assembly **104**.

As illustrated in FIG. **3**, the cap **206** can include an outlet tube **340** that can extend from the distal end **332** of the cap **206**. Specifically, the outlet tube **340** can extend from the center of the distal end **332** of the cap **206**. The outlet tube **340** can be configured to be removably engaged with the adapter **106**. For example, as depicted in FIG. **3**, the outlet tube **340** can be formed with external threads **342**.

Alternatively, as illustrated in FIG. **4**, the outlet tube **340** can be formed within one or more locking pins **400** that can extend radially outward from the outlet tube **340**. The locking pins **400** can be configured to engage one or more grooves, or slots, formed within the adapter **106**. Examples of grooves or slots formed within the adapter **106** are described below in conjunction with FIG. **10** and FIG. **11**.

In another aspect, the outlet tube **340** can be formed with one or more grooves configured to engage one or more locking pins within the adapter. FIG. **5** illustrates one such groove, generally designated **500**. As such, the groove **500** can include a generally helical portion **502** that extends to a relatively straight portion **504**. The relatively straight portion **504** can be substantially parallel to the end face of the outlet tube **340**. To install the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) within the adapter **106** (FIG. **3**), the outlet tube **340** can be inserted into the adapter **106** (FIG. **3**) such that the groove **500**, or grooves, fit over corresponding locking pins. Thereafter, the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) can be rotated in order to move the groove **500**, or grooves, over the locking pins until the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) is essentially locked in placed within the adapter **106** (FIG. **3**).

It can be appreciated that a spring in a valve assembly, described below, can provide a biasing force to facilitate locking the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) within the adapter **106** (FIG. **3**). Further, it can be appreciated that the relatively straight portion **504** can be slightly angled with respect to the end face of the outlet tube **340** in order to provide a ramped structure to further facilitate locking the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) within the adapter **106** (FIG. **3**). For example, the relatively straight portion **504** can be angled in a range of one degree to twenty degrees (1°-20°) relative to a line parallel to the end face of the outlet tube **340**. Additionally, the relatively straight portion **504** can terminate in a notch **506**, or divot. A locking pin can move into the notch **506** and can further secure attachment of the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) to the adapter (FIG. **3**).

FIG. **6** illustrates another groove, generally designated **600**. As illustrated, the groove **600** can include a vertical portion **602** that can be substantially perpendicular to the end face of the outlet tube **304**. The vertical portion **602** leads to a first angled portion **604** that can be angled away from the end face of the outlet tube **304**, e.g., in a range of one degree to twenty degrees (1°-20°). The first portion **604** can be angled with respect to a line parallel to the end face of the outlet tube **304**. A second angled portion **606** extends from the first angled portion **604** in the opposite direction as the first angled portion **604**, i.e., toward the end face of the outlet tube **304**. The second angled portion **606** can be angled in a range of one degree to twenty degrees (1°-20°). The second angled portion **606** can be angled with respect to a line parallel to the end face of the outlet tube **304**.

In a particular aspect, the cap **206** can be constructed from polypropylene (PP).

Returning to FIG. **3**, the paint cup assembly **104** can also include a valve assembly **350**. The valve assembly **350** can be installed within the cap **206**. Specifically, the valve assembly **350** can be installed within the cap **206** between the outlet tube **340** and a valve retainer **352**. The valve assembly **350** can include a plunger **354** and a spring **356**. In another aspect, the valve assembly **350** can include a ball (not illustrated) in lieu of a plunger.

In a particular aspect, the plunger **354** can be constructed from a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE). Further, the spring **365** can be a conical compression spring made from stainless steel.

As illustrated in FIG. **7**, the valve retainer **352** include a generally disk shaped frame **700**. The frame **700** of the valve retainer **352** can be formed with a central opening **702** through which a portion of the plunger **354** can extend through after installation and during operation of the valve assembly **350**, as described below. FIG. **7** depicts that the frame **700** of valve retainer **352** can include one or more windows **704**, or openings, formed therein. A filter material **706**, e.g., a mesh type material, can be disposed within each window **704**. In a particular aspect, the frame **700** can include an upper portion and a lower portion and the filter material **706** can be sandwiched there between. In another aspect, the frame **700** can be a single piece and formed with the windows **704** and the filter material **706** can be welded to an upper surface or lower surface of the frame **700**.

In a particular aspect, the frame **700** of the valve retainer **352** can be constructed from polypropylene. Further, the filter material **706** can be a mesh type material suitable for filtering a fluid such as paint.

As illustrated in FIG. **8**, the plunger **354** can include a shaft **800** that can include a proximal end **802** and a distal end **804**. A head **806** can extend from the distal end **804** of the shaft **800**. The head **806** of the plunger **354** can include a proximal end **808** and a distal end **810**. A sealing collar **812** can extend radially from the proximal end **808** of the head **806**. The sealing collar **812** can be formed with a sealing face **814**. The sealing face **814** of the sealing collar **812** can be configured to engage a valve seat, described below, formed in the outlet tube **340** (FIG. **3**) of the cap **206** (FIG. **3**). When the sealing face **814** engages the valve seat, flow through the outlet tube **340** (FIG. **3**) can be substantially blocked and the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) can be sealed.

FIG. **8** depicts that the head **806** of the plunger **354** can be formed with one or more flutes **816**. The flutes **816** can facilitate fluid flow through the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) when the sealing face **814** is disengaged from the valve seat.

Returning to FIG. **3**, the paint cup assembly **104** can further include the adapter **106**. A valve actuator **850** can be installed within the adapter **106**. FIG. **9** illustrates further details concerning the valve actuator **850** and FIG. **10** illustrates further details regarding the adapter **106**.

As illustrated in FIG. **9**, the valve actuator **850** can include a generally cylindrical, base **900**. A generally cylindrical, hollow post **902** can extend from the base **900**. As illustrated, the base **900** can be formed with a central bore **904**. Further, the post **902** can be formed with one or more slots **906**, or openings. The slots **906** are configured to allow fluid, e.g., paint, to flow through the post **902** and the base **900** when the valve assembly **350** (FIG. **3**) is in the open configuration. In a particular embodiment, the post **902** can be configured to engage the plunger **354** (FIG. **3**, FIG. **8**) and move the plunger **354** linearly in order to disengage the sealing face **814** (FIG. **8**) of the plunger **354** (FIG. **8**) from the valve seat, described in detail below in conjunction with FIG. **13**.

In a particular aspect, the valve actuator **850** can be constructed from nylon.

FIG. **10** depicts details concerning the construction of the adapter **106**. As illustrated, the adapter **106** can include an adapter body **1000** that can define a proximal end **1002** and a distal end **1004**. Further, the adapter **106** can include an internal bore **1006** along the length of the adapter body **1000**. The internal bore **1006** can include a first bore portion **1008** that can extend from the proximal end **1002** of the adapter body **1000** toward the distal end **1004** of the adapter body **1002**. Further, the internal bore **1006** can include a second bore portion **1010** that can extend from the first bore portion **1008** toward the distal end **1004** of the adapter body **1002**. A third bore portion **1012** can extend from the second bore portion **1010** and terminate at the distal end **1004** of the adapter body **1002**.

In a particular aspect, the base **900** (FIG. **9**) of the valve actuator **354** (FIG. **3**) can be sized and shaped to fit into the second bore portion **1010** of the internal bore **1006** formed in the adapter body **1000**. Moreover, the base **900** (FIG. **9**) of the valve actuator **354** (FIG. **3**) can be press fitted into the second bore portion **1010**.

As illustrated in FIG. **10**, the first bore portion **1008** can be formed with one or more grooves **1016** that can be configured to engage one or more locking pins **400** (FIG. **4**) that extend radially outward from the outlet tube **340** (FIG. **4**) of the cap **206** (FIG. **3**). The groove **1016** can include a generally helical portion **1018** that can extend to a relatively straight portion **1020**. The relatively straight portion **1020** can be substantially parallel to the end face of the adapter **106**. To install the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) within the adapter **106** (FIG. **3**), the outlet tube **340** (FIG. **3**) can be inserted into the adapter **106** (FIG. **3**) such that the locking pins **400** (FIG. **4**) fit into corresponding grooves **1016**. Thereafter, the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) can be rotated in order to move the locking pins **400** (FIG. **4**) within the grooves **1016** until the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) is essentially locked in placed within the adapter **106** (FIG. **3**).

It can be appreciated that the relatively straight portion **1020** can be slightly angled toward to the end face of the adapter **106** in order to provide a ramped structure to further facilitate locking the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) within the adapter **106** (FIG. **3**). For example, the relatively straight portion **1020** can be angled in a range of one degree to twenty degrees (1°-20°) relative to a line parallel to the end face of the adapter **106**. Additionally, the relatively straight portion **1020** can terminate in a notch **1022**, or divot. A locking pin can move into the notch **1022** and can further secure attachment of the paint cup assembly **104** (FIG. **3**) to the adapter **106** (FIG. **3**).

FIG. **11** illustrates another groove, generally designated **1100**, that can be formed in the adapter **106**. As illustrated, the groove **1100** can include a vertical portion **1102** that can be substantially perpendicular to the end face of the adapter **106**. The vertical portion **1102** leads to a first angled portion **1104** that can be angled away from the end face of the adapter **106**, e.g., in a range of one degree to twenty degrees (1°-20°). The first portion **1104** can be angled with respect to a line parallel to the end face of the adapter **106**. A second angled portion **1106** can extend from the first angled portion **1104** in the opposite direction as the first angled portion **1104**, i.e., toward the end face of the adapter **106**. The second angled portion **1106** can be angled in a range of one degree to twenty degrees (1°-20°). The second angled portion **1106** can be angled with respect to a line parallel to the end face of the adapter **106**.

As illustrated in FIG. **12**, in an alternative embodiment, the adapter **106** can be formed within one or more locking pins **1200** that can extend radially inward from the adapter body **1000**. For example, the locking pins **1200** can extend radially inward from the wall of the first bore portion **1008** of the internal bore **1006** formed in the adapter body **1000**. In a particular aspect, the locking pins **1200** can be configured to engage one or more grooves, or slots, formed within the outlet tube **340** of the cap **206**.

In a particular aspect, the adapter **106** can be constructed from a metal, such as aluminum.

Referring now to FIG. **13**, a detailed view of the paint cup assembly **104** is illustrated. FIG. **13** depicts the outlet tube **340** of the cap **206** inserted into the first bore portion **1008** of the internal bore **1006** formed in the adapter **106**. As the outlet tube **340** is inserted into the adapter **106**, the valve actuator **850** within the adapter **106** can engage the plunger **354** of the valve assembly **350**. Specifically, the post **902** of the valve actuator **850** can contact and engage the head **806** of the plunger **354**.

The post **902** of the valve actuator **850** can cause the plunger **354** to move linearly into the cap **206** and through the valve retainer **352**, e.g., through the central opening **702** of the valve retainer **352**. As the plunger **354** moves as described, the spring **356** can be compressed between the valve retainer **352** and the head **806** of the plunger **354**. Further, as the plunger **354** moves into the cap **206**, the sealing face **814** formed on the sealing collar **812** of the head **806** can be unseated, or otherwise disengaged, from a valve seat **1300** formed within the cap **206** at the base of the outlet tube **340**.

As the sealing face **814** of the head **806** is unseated from the valve seat **1300** of the outlet tube **340**, fluid, e.g., paint, can flow from the paint liner **202** through the cap **206** and out of the outlet tube **340**. The fluid can then flow through the valve actuator **850** and through the adapter **106** into a paint sprayer. As the fluid flows through the cap **206**, the filter material **706** (FIG. **7**) disposed within the valve retainer **352** can filter the fluid, e.g., to remove any dirt, dust, or other particles.

Accordingly, as illustrated in FIG. **13**, the valve assembly **350** can be configured to be operable from a closed configuration in which fluid flow through the outlet tube **340** can be prevented to an open configuration in which fluid flow through the outlet tube **340** can be permitted upon engagement with a paint sprayer. In particular, the open configuration can be achieved automatically during engagement of the paint cup assembly **104** with the adapter **106** or paint sprayer (not illustrated). Further, it can be appreciated that the engagement can be achieved by reducing a distance between the paint cup assembly and the adapter **106** or paint sprayer (not illustrated). Further, in a particular embodiment, engagement can include an interference fi. In another aspect, engagement can include a threaded engagement.

Referring to FIG. **14**, a third embodiment of a valve assembly is illustrated and is designated **1400**. As illustrated, the valve assembly **1400** can include a membrane **1402** disposed within an outlet tube **1404** of a cap (not illustrated). In particular aspect, the membrane **1402** can be self-sealing when a trocar is removed therefrom.

The valve assembly **1400** can further include a trocar **1406** or a similarly configured needle or piercing hollow shaft. The trocar **1406** can be disposed within an internal bore **1408** of an adapter **1410**. The trocar **1406** can be supported by one or more support structures **1412** that extend radially from a base of the trocar **1406** to the wall of the internal bore **1408**.

As a paint cup assembly (not illustrated) is engaged with the adapter **1410**, the outlet tube **1404** of the cap (not illustrated) can be inserted into the internal bore **1408** of the adapter **1410**. Further, as the outlet tube **1404** is pushed into the adapter, the trocar **1406** can pierce the membrane **1402** in order to permit fluid flow out of the paint cup assembly (not illustrated) and through the adapter **1410** into a paint sprayer (not illustrated).

When the paint cup assembly (not illustrated) is disengaged from the adapter **1410**, the trocar **1406** can be retracted, or otherwise removed, from the membrane **1402**. Once the trocar **1406** is removed from the membrane **1402**, the membrane **1402** can seal the hole formed at the location within the membrane **1402** in which the trocar **1406** pierced the membrane **1402**. As such, if the paint cup assembly (not illustrated) remains at least partially filled with fluid, leakage of the fluid can be substantially minimized.

FIG. **15** through FIG. **21** illustrate a paint cup filling station, generally designated **1500**. As shown, the paint cup filling station **1500** can include a first paint cup tray **1502** and a second paint cup tray **1504** separated by a housing **1506**. Depending on the orientation of the paint cup filling station **1500**, the first paint cup tray **1502** can be considered an upper paint cup tray; the second paint cup tray **1504** can be considered a lower paint cup tray; and vice-versa.

The housing **1506** can have a first side wall **1510**, a second side wall **1512**, a third side wall **1514**, and a fourth side wall **1516**. Further, the housing **1506** can be constructed from a corrugated material and the housing **1506** can be foldable, or otherwise collapsible. When erected, the side walls **1510**, **1512**, **1514**, **1516** can be connected to adjacent sidewalls **1510**, **1512**, **1514**, **1516**, the paint cup trays **1502**, **1504**, or a combination thereof via one or more fasteners **1520**, e.g., removable push pin fasteners, thumb screws, etc.

As shown in FIG. **15** and FIG. **16**, the first paint cup tray **1502** can be formed with one or more paint cup assembly holes **1530**. Further, the second paint cup tray **1504** can also be formed with one or more paint cup assembly holes **1532**. Each paint cup assembly hole **1530**, **1532** can be configured to receive a correspondingly sized and shaped paint cup assembly **1540**. Further, each paint cup assembly hole **1530**, **1532** can be connected to one or more adjoining paint assembly holes **1530**, **1532** via one or more fluid channels **1550**. Accordingly, if a particular paint cup assembly **1540** is being filled and begins to overfill the fluid, e.g., paint, can flow from the particular paint cup assembly **1540** that is being overfilled and into one or more adjacent paint cup assemblies.

FIG. **17** indicates that at least one of the sidewalls **1510**, **1512**, **1514**, **1516** can be formed with one or more elongated windows **1560**. Each elongated window **1560** can be aligned with a respective paint cup assembly hole **1530**, **1532**. Specifically, a center axis of the window **1560** can be aligned with a center of a paint cup assembly hole **1530**, **1532**. Each elongated window **1560** can be configured to allow a user to view at least a portion of the paint cup assembly **1540** when the paint cup assembly **1540** is installed in the paint cup filling station **1500**. For example, the elongated window **1560** can be configured to allow a user to view a paint liner of the paint cup assembly **1540**. Accordingly, the user can easily determine the level of paint in the paint cup assembly **1540** while the paint cup assembly **1540** is being filled with paint.

In a particular aspect, at least a portion of a slot formed in an extended ring of the paint cup assembly **1540**, e.g., the slot **320** illustrated in FIG. **2** and FIG. **3**, can be substantially aligned with the elongated window **1560** when the paint cup assembly **1540** is installed in the paint cup filling station **1500**.

As further illustrated in FIG. **17**, the paint cup filling station **1500** can include a group of indicia **1562** adjacent to each elongated window **1560**. The indicia **1562** can be used to indicate a volume amount of paint, or fluid, within the paint cup assembly **1540**. The indicia **1562** on the paint cup filling station **1500** can be keyed to indicia on the paint liner of the paint cup assembly **1540**.

In a particular aspect, the elongated window **1560** can have a window height, H_W, measured from a top of the window **1560** to a bottom of the window **1560** along the center axis of the window **1560**. A paint liner, e.g., the paint liner **202** depicted in FIG. **2** and FIG. **3**, can have paint liner height,

H_{PL}, measured from the top of a paint liner **202** to a bottom of the paint liner **202** along a center axis of the paint liner **202**. Further, in a particular aspect, H_W can be at least 95% H_{PL}. For example, H_W can be at least 100% H_{PL}, such as at least 105% H_{PL}, or at least 110% H_{PL}. In another aspect, H_W can be less than or equal to 150% H_{PL}, such as less than or equal to 125% H_{PL}, or less than or equal to 115% H_{PL}. Moreover, H_W can be within a range between and including any of the percentage of H_{PL} values described herein.

In another aspect, the elongated window **1560** can have a window width, W_W, measured from a left side of the window **1560** to a right side of the window **1560**. The slot in the extended ring of the paint cup assembly **1540** can include a slot width, W_S, measured from a left side of the slot to a right side of the slot. In this aspect, W_W can be at least 95% W_S. For example, W_W can be at least 100% W_S, such as at least 105% W_S, or at least 110% W_S. In another aspect, W_W can be less than or equal to 150% W_S, such as less than or equal to 125% W_S, or less than or equal to 115% W_S. Moreover, W_W can be within a range between and including any of the percentage of W_S values described herein.

In another aspect, the paint liner of the paint cup assembly **1540** can have an outer diameter, OD, measured at the outer perimeter of the rim of the paint liner. In this aspect, W_W can be at least 5% OD. For example, W_W can be at least 6% OD, such as at least 7% OD, at least 8% OD, at least 9% OD, or at least 10% OD. In another aspect, W_W can be less than or equal to 25% OD, such as less than or equal to 20% OD, or less than or equal to 15% OD. Moreover, W_W can be within a range between and including any of the percentage of OD values described herein.

In a particular aspect, one or more of the paint cup assembly holes **1530**, **1532** formed in the first paint cup tray **1502** and the second paint cup tray **1504** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a three ounce (3 oz.) capacity. In another aspect, one or more of the paint cup assembly holes **1530**, **1532** formed in the first paint cup tray **1502** and the second paint cup tray **1504** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a five ounce (5 oz.) capacity.

In still another aspect, one or more of the paint cup assembly holes **1530**, **1532** formed in the first paint cup tray **1502** and the second paint cup tray **1504** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having an eight ounce (8 oz.) capacity. In yet another aspect, one or more of the paint cup assembly holes **1530**, **1532** formed in the first paint cup tray **1502** and the second paint cup tray **1504** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a twenty-five ounce (25 oz.) capacity. In another aspect, one or more of the paint cup assembly holes **1530**, **1532** formed in the first paint cup tray **1502** and the second paint cup tray **1504** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a thirty-two ounce (32 oz.) capacity.

In another aspect, one or more of the paint cup assembly holes **1530**, **1532** formed in the first paint cup tray **1502** and the second paint cup tray **1504** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a ninety milliliter (90 ml) capacity. In yet still another aspect, one or more of the paint cup assembly holes **1530**, **1532** formed in the first paint cup tray **1502** and the second paint cup tray **1504** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a one hundred fifty milliliter (150 ml) capacity.

In yet another aspect, one or more of the paint cup assembly holes **1530**, **1532** formed in the first paint cup tray **1502** and the second paint cup tray **1504** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a two hundred fifty milliliter (250 ml) capacity. In another aspect, one or more of the paint cup assembly holes **1530**, **1532** formed in the first paint cup tray **1502** and the second paint cup tray **1504** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a seven hundred fifty milliliter (750 ml) capacity. In yet another aspect, one or more of the paint cup assembly holes **1530**, **1532** formed in the first paint cup tray **1502** and the second paint cup tray **1504** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a nine hundred fifty milliliter (950 ml) capacity. The capacity of the paint cup assembly can be within a range between and including any of the capacity values described above.

It can be appreciated that the first paint cup tray **1502** can include an array of similarly sized paint cup assembly holes **1530** and the second paint cup tray **1502** can include an array of similarly sized paint cup assembly holes **1532**. The paint cup assembly holes **1530** in the first paint cup tray **1502** can be different in size from the paint cup assembly holes **1532** in the second paint cup tray **1504**. As such, the paint cup assembly filling station **1500** can be oriented as shown to receive paint cup assemblies having a particular size or the paint cup assembly filling station **1500** can be inverted to receive paint cup assemblies having a different size, e.g., capacity.

Also, it can be appreciated that the first paint cup tray **1502**, the second paint cup tray **1504**, or a combination thereof can include paint cup assembly holes **1532** of varying sizes.

In a particular aspect, the paint cup trays **1502**, **1504** are constructed from acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) plastic. Moreover, the housing **1506** can be constructed from high density polyethylene (HDPE).

Referring now to FIG. **20** and FIG. **21**, a paint cup assembly support stand is illustrated and is generally designated **2000**. As shown, the paint cup assembly support stand **2000** can include a base **2002**. Further, one or more support arms **2004** can extend from the base **2002**. In a particular aspect, the support arms **2004** can extend in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the base **2002**. Further, at least one paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can extend from each support arm **2004**. Specifically, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be parallel to the base **2002**.

As shown in FIG. **20** and FIG. **21**, a support frame **2008** can extend from each support arm **2004** to the paint cup assembly support ring **2006** and the base of the paint cup assembly support stand **2000**. The support frames **2008** can provide additional structural support for the weight of a paint cup assembly (not shown) inserted into the paint cup assembly support rings **2006**.

In a particular aspect, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a three ounce (3 oz.) capacity. In another aspect, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a five ounce (5 oz.) capacity.

In still another aspect, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having an eight ounce (8 oz.) capacity. In yet another aspect, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a twenty-five ounce (25 oz.) capacity. In another aspect, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a thirty-two ounce (32 oz.) capacity.

In another aspect, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a ninety milliliter (90 ml) capacity. In yet still another aspect, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a one hundred fifty milliliter (150 ml) capacity.

In yet another aspect, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly hav-

ing a two hundred fifty milliliter (250 ml) capacity. In another aspect, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a seven hundred fifty milliliter (750 ml) capacity. In yet another aspect, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be configured to receive a paint cup assembly having a nine hundred fifty milliliter (950 ml) capacity.

FIG. **20** and FIG. **21** indicate that in an exemplary embodiment, the paint cup assembly support stand **2000** can include three support arms **2004** extending from the base **2002** and each support arm **2004** can include a single paint cup assembly support ring **2006**. It can be appreciated that the paint cup assembly support stand **2000** can include any number of support arms **2004** and any number of paint cup assembly support rings **2006**. For example, in another aspect, the paint cup assembly support stand **2000** can include a single support arm **2004** having multiple paint cup assembly support rings **2006** extending therefrom, e.g., radially. Further, each paint cup assembly support ring **2006** can be similarly sized to receive paint cup assemblies having similar capacities, as described herein. Alternatively, the paint cup assembly support stand **2000** can include multiple paint cup assembly support rings **2006** having various sizes and the paint cup assembly support stand **2000** can receive and support paint cup assemblies having varying capacities.

With the configuration described herein, the paint cup assembly provides a paint cup assembly that is substantially leak-proof regardless of the orientation of the paint cup assembly. Further, the paint cup assembly can be connected to a paint spray gun while the paint spray gun is in an upright position typically used while expelling paint from the paint spray gun. The valve maintains paint within the paint cup assembly until the paint cup assembly is engaged with the paint spray gun and the adapter opens the valve. Further, when the paint cup assembly is disengaged with the paint spray gun, the valve returns to a closed position and seals the outlet of the paint cup assembly. The paint cup assembly can be stored for later use and any remaining paint can stay fresh and usable for an extended period of time. In a particular aspect, the paint spray gun can incorporate one or more of the features of the adapter and in such an aspect, the paint cup assembly can be directly engaged with the paint spray gun without using the adapter. Accordingly, a post within the paint spray gun can be configured to open the valve when the paint cup assembly is directly engaged with the paint spray gun.

Note that not all of the activities described above in the general description or the examples are required, that a portion of a specific activity may not be required, and that one or more further activities can be performed in addition to those described. Still further, the order in which activities are listed is not necessarily the order in which they are performed.

Certain features that are, for clarity, described herein in the context of separate embodiments, can also be provided in combination in a single embodiment. Conversely, various features that are, for brevity, described in the context of a single embodiment, can also be provided separately or in any subcombination. Further, reference to values stated in ranges includes each and every value within that range.

Benefits, other advantages, and solutions to problems have been described above with regard to specific embodiments. However, the benefits, advantages, solutions to problems, and any feature(s) that can cause any benefit, advantage, or solution to occur or become more pronounced are not to be construed as a critical, required, or essential feature of any or all the claims.

The specification and illustrations of the embodiments described herein are intended to provide a general understanding of the structure of the various embodiments. The specification and illustrations are not intended to serve as an exhaustive and comprehensive description of all of the elements and features of apparatus and systems that use the structures or methods described herein. Separate embodiments can also be provided in combination in a single embodiment, and conversely, various features that are, for brevity, described in the context of a single embodiment, can also be provided separately or in any subcombination. Further, reference to values stated in ranges includes each and every value within that range. Many other embodiments can be apparent to skilled artisans only after reading this specification. Other embodiments can be used and derived from the disclosure, such that a structural substitution, logical substitution, or another change can be made without departing from the scope of the disclosure. Accordingly, the disclosure is to be regarded as illustrative rather than restrictive.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of using a paint cup assembly with a paint sprayer, the method comprising:

providing a paint cup assembly including a cap, an outlet tube extending from the cap, and a valve assembly disposed in the outlet tube, wherein the valve assembly is movable from a closed configuration in which fluid flow through the outlet tube is prevented to an open configuration in which fluid flow through the outlet tube is permitted, wherein the valve assembly comprises a plunger having a head and a shaft, wherein the head of the plunger is configured to engage a valve seat formed at a first end of the outlet tube when the valve assembly is in the closed configuration, and wherein the first end of the outlet tube is adjacent to the cap;

filling the paint cup assembly with paint;

closing the paint cup assembly;

inverting the paint cup assembly; and

engaging the paint cup assembly with the paint sprayer so as to automatically move the valve assembly to the open configuration,

wherein engaging the paint cup assembly with the paint sprayer is performed after inverting the paint cup assembly, and wherein engaging the paint cup assembly with the paint sprayer is performed so as to minimize spillage of paint.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the valve assembly is a spring loaded valve assembly.

3. The method of claim **1**, wherein the paint cup assembly further comprises a collapsible paint liner adapted to receive paint and collapse as paint is withdrawn from the collapsible paint liner.

4. The method of claim **1**, wherein the paint cup assembly further comprises a ring and a collapsible paint liner, wherein the ring circumscribes the paint liner, and wherein the ring extends along a length of the collapsible liner a distance less than an axial height of the collapsible liner.

5. The method of claim **4**, wherein the cap is adapted to engage the ring, and wherein a portion of the collapsible paint liner is disposed between a portion of the ring and a portion of the cap to secure the collapsible paint liner to the cap.

6. The method of claim **1**, wherein engaging the paint cup assembly with the paint sprayer comprises:

engaging the paint cup assembly with an adapter on the paint sprayer,

wherein the adapter includes a post for automatically opening the valve assembly as the paint cup assembly is engaged with the paint sprayer, and wherein the post has

one or more slots configured to allow fluid to flow through the post when the valve assembly is in the open configuration.

7. The method of claim **1**, wherein the valve assembly is disposed between a valve retainer and the outlet, and wherein the shaft of the plunger extends through the valve retainer upon engagement with the paint sprayer.

8. The method of claim **7**, wherein the valve retainer comprises a disk shaped frame defining one or more openings, and wherein a filter material is disposed in the one or more openings.

9. The method of claim **8**, further comprising:

inverting the paint sprayer and the paint cup assembly so that the paint sprayer is above the paint cup assembly;

actuating a trigger on the paint sprayer to allow paint within the paint sprayer to return to the paint cup assembly; and

disengaging the paint cup assembly from the paint sprayer.

10. A method of using a paint cup assembly with a paint sprayer, the method comprising:

providing a paint cup assembly including a collapsible paint liner;

filling the collapsible paint liner with paint;

closing the paint cup assembly with a cap, wherein the cap includes a spring loaded outlet valve assembly, wherein the valve assembly comprises a plunger having a head and a shaft, wherein the head of the plunger is configured to engage a valve seat formed in an outlet tube of the cap when the valve assembly is in the closed configuration, and wherein the head of the plunger is generally cylindrical;

inverting the paint cup assembly; and

threadably engaging the paint cup assembly with the paint sprayer,

wherein threadably engaging the paint cup assembly with the paint sprayer is performed after inverting the paint cup assembly, and wherein engaging the paint cup assembly with the paint sprayer is performed so as to minimize spillage of paint.

11. The method of claim **10**, wherein the spring loaded valve assembly is automatically moved from a closed configuration in which fluid flow through an outlet is prevented to an open configuration in which fluid flow through the outlet is permitted during engagement with the paint sprayer.

12. The method of claim **11**, wherein the outlet tube extends from the cap defining a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the proximal end is adjacent to the cap, and wherein the plunger is disposed at a location adjacent to the proximal end.

13. The method of claim **11**, wherein the open configuration is achieved automatically during engagement.

14. The method of claim **10**, wherein the collapsible paint liner comprises a generally cylindrical sidewall, a closed bottom, and an open top, and wherein the closed bottom is generally hemispherical.

15. The method of claim **10**, wherein engaging the paint cup assembly with the paint sprayer includes rotating the paint cup assembly with respect to the paint sprayer.

16. A method of using a paint cup assembly with a paint sprayer, the method comprising:

filling a paint cup assembly with paint, wherein the paint cup assembly includes a paint reservoir comprising a ring and a collapsible paint liner, wherein the ring circumscribes the paint liner;

closing the paint cup assembly with a cap, wherein the cap includes a spring loaded valve assembly and an outlet tube, wherein the valve assembly comprises a plunger having a head and a shaft, and wherein the head of the plunger is configured to engage a valve seat formed in the outlet when the valve assembly is in the closed configuration;

inverting the paint cup assembly; and

engaging the outlet of the cap with an adapter on the paint sprayer,

wherein the adapter includes a valve actuator for automatically opening the spring loaded valve assembly as the paint cup assembly is engaged with the paint sprayer, and wherein engaging the outlet of the cap with the adapter is performed after inverting the paint cup assembly.

17. The method of claim **16**, wherein the ring has an axial height that is less than an axial height of the liner.

18. The method of claim **16**, wherein the collapsible paint liner is adapted to collapse as paint is withdrawn from the collapsible paint liner.

19. The method of claim **16**, wherein engaging paint cup assembly with the paint sprayer includes reducing a distance between the paint cup assembly and the paint sprayer.

20. The method of claim **16**, wherein the cap is adapted to engage the ring, and wherein a portion of the collapsible paint liner is disposed between a portion of the ring and a portion of the cap to secure the collapsible paint liner to the cap.

21. The method of claim **16**, wherein the ring comprises:

a hub; and

a skirt extending from the hub, the skirt defining a plurality of slots.

22. The method of claim **16**, wherein the valve actuator comprises a post and wherein the post is configured to open the valve assembly as the outlet of the paint cup assembly is inserted into the adapter.

* * * * *